

Hughes Allison  
611 Hunterdon St.  
Newark, N. J.

*This is the original copy  
of the play as presented  
on Broadway at the Max-  
well Elliott Theatre.*

*Hughes Allison.*

THE TRIAL OF DR. BECK

by

Hughes Allison

Original Working Script  
"The  
Trial of Dr. Beck"  
—  
Important —

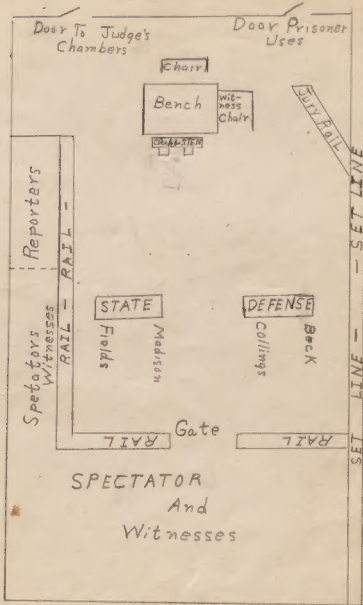
**MANUSCRIPT:** This is the original working script of "The Trial of Dr. Beck." The envelope in which the manuscript is encased denotes the return home address of Hughes Allison at that time: 144 Steuben Street, East Orange, NJ.

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"THE TRIAL OF DR. BECK  
A Play  
by  
Hughes Allison

(A)

A Very Rough Sketch Of Set



• (Please Copy For All Scripts)

PROP LIST

- 1 Bible
- 2 Gavel
- 2 Blocks for gavel
- 1 Desk Pen Set
- 1 Water Carafe
- 1 Platter for carafe
- 1 Drinking glass
- 12 Legal Volumes
- 12 Writing Pads (Yellow-Legal Size)
- 24 Pencils
- 12 Copy Pencils (Newspaper Type)
- 1 Stenographer's Notebook (1 each performance)
- 4 Penholders
- 1 Box Penpoints
- 4 Desk Blotters
- 3 Blotter Holders
- 1 Ream Copy Paper (Newspaper Type)
- 3 Brief Cases
- Legal Briefs and Typewritten Documents
- 1 Box Tags
- 1 Diary
- 1 Surgical Probe
- 1 Manuscript in Cover (About 300 pages)
- 2 Newspaper Cameras (Flashbulb Attachments)
- 2 Candid Cameras
- 1 Telegram Receipt Form
- 1 Mail Pouch
- 1 Letter
- 1 Newspaper Photo)
- 1 Snapshot                    ) In above letter
- 1 Typed Note                 )
- 1 Special Delivery Receipt Form
- 1 Long Envelope (Containing Marriage License)
- 1 Pilot's Flight List Form
- 1 Hostess' Flight List Form

ELECTRICS

- 4 Photo Flash Bulbs (Practical-4 Each Performance)
- 2 Lamps For Judge's Bench
- 1 Stenographer's Desk Lamp

SET PROPS

- 4 3'6" Counsel Tables
- 9 Arm Chairs
- 6 Straight Back Chairs
- 1 Judge's Chair
- 1 American Flag in Standard

LIGHT PLOTBALCONY FRONT

6 1000 W. Spots Alternate Surprise Pink and Bastard Amber

1ST PIPE

L. to R.M 4 Baby Spots--X-Ray--6 Baby--X-Ray--6 Baby  
Bastard Amber and Surprise Pink

2ND PIPE

26' Over Skylight

3 1000 W. Sun Ray Spots

3RD PIPE

28' With Clamps

5 1000 W. Sun Ray Spots

4TH PIPE

Cyclorama

6 1000 W. Floods Medium Pink Over Frost

4 1000 W. Floods as Trough Steel Blue Over Frost

GELATIN MEDIUMS

Surprise Pink  
Bastard Amber (For All Spots and Sun Rays)  
Medium Pink  
Steel Blue  
Frost

C H A R A C T E R S

(Their Physical And Racial Characteristics)

N E G R O E S

COLLINGS= (May have brown skin; preferably black skin; tall, distinguished in appearance.)  
 FIELDS= (Brown skin; short and chubby.)  
 JAMES= (Skin doesn't matter; huge physique.) \*\*\*  
 BECK= (Olive skin; handsome; distinguished.)  
 G. DOOLITTLE= (Very black skin; preferably huge physique)  
 L. DOOLITTLE= (Very black skin; tiny.)  
 REDD= (Light brown skin; voluptuous.)  
 BROOKS= (Brown skin; esthetic.)  
 JONES= (Very black skin; either very thin or very fat.)  
 HOPKINS= (Very fair skin; pretty.)  
 ELLEN= (Brown skin; elderly; charming.)  
 REPORTER= (One Reporter at Press Table should be a Negro.)

W H I T E S

CLERK

ARCHER= (Distinguished; middle age.)

MADISON

HICKS

O'MALLEY

GORDON= (Old fashioned; a little past middle age.)

SIMS= (Very distinguished.)

JUDD

PHILLIPS \*\*\*

HUDSON \*\*\*

SHAW

FIRST

SECOND

THIRD

COURT ATTENDANTS\*\*\*

STENOGRAPHER

REPORTERS

\*\*\* (These Characters are dressed in uniforms representative of their positions, professions and duties.)



C H A R A C T E R S

(In the order in which they speak)

COURT CLERK  
 JUDGE ARCHER  
 DISTRICT ATTORNEY WALTER MADISON  
 DR. ALFRED HICKS  
 ATTORNEY COLLINGS  
 SPECIAL ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY LUTHER FIELDS  
 PATROLMAN JAMES JAMES  
 INSPECTOR TIMOTHY O'MALLEY  
 DR. JOHN BECK  
 ELLA GORDON  
 GEORGE DOOLITTLE  
 LULU DOOLITTLE  
 HILDA REDD  
 OSCAR BROOKS  
 DR. JULIUS SIMS  
 CARRIE JONES  
 ELENORE HOPKINS  
 RUTH ELLEN  
 RALPH JUDD  
 HERMAN PHILIPS  
 MARY HUDSON  
 GEORGE B. SHAW  
 FIRST COURT ATTENDANT  
 SECOND COURT ATTENDANT  
 THIRD COURT ATTENDANT  
 COURT STENOGRAPHER

}  
 }  
 } One a Guard.

REPORTERS

SCENES

ACT I - "A massive courtroom in the new Supreme Court Building in New York City."

A Tuesday morning.

ACT II - The same as Act I.

The following day, Wednesday, at ten o'clock.

ACT III- The same as Act I and Act II.

The following Monday at ten o'clock.

THE TRIAL OF DR. BECK

ACT ONE

TIME: The present, on a Tuesday morning.

SCENE: A massive courtroom in the new Supreme Court building in New York City.

A WALL LEFT is a door leading to the Judge's chambers.  
 DOWN STAGE LEFT is a door through which prisoner enters and leaves courtroom. Between these two doors, on a platform towering above all else in the room, is the Judge's chair and bench. DOWN STAGE, beside Judge's bench on a somewhat lower platform, is the witness chair. A table for the Court Clerk and Court Stenographer is placed on the floor level RIGHT of Judge's bench. UP STAGE CENTER is the State's table; two chairs are placed RIGHT of table. DOWN STAGE CENTER is the Defense's table; one chair is placed LEFT of table; two chairs are placed RIGHT of table. All of the above is enclosed by a rail. DOWN STAGE, outside of rail, is a platform; chairs for reporters and witnesses and spectators are placed on platform. The reporters' chairs are placed near Judge's bench. A flat board, at desk level, is placed before reporters' chairs; their papers, cameras and typewriters may be placed on this desk. RIGHT, outside of rail, are more chairs for witnesses and spectators. A gate is situated in the rail just RIGHT of the tables of the State and the Defense. There is no Jury Box. But DOWN STAGE LEFT is a rail which extends from the witness chair to the set-line, indicating that the audience is the Jury.

AT RISE: A babel of voices is heard. The room is full of spectators, reporters, witnesses, court attendants and attorneys. Some are seated; some are standing. A guard and the Clerk are standing at the Clerk's table. COLLINGS, who has been talking to the Stenographer at the Stenographer's table, crosses to speak to ELA ENORE HOPKINS who is seated in the UP STAGE section reserved for spectators and witnesses. MADISON and FIELD are in conversation at the State's table. JUDGE ARCHER enters from his chambers.

COURT CLERK

Hear ye, hear ye! all ye who have business draw near, give attention, and ye shall be heard!

COURT CLERK

Be seated! Court is now in session. Judge Archer presiding.

JUDGE ARCHER

Have the prisoner brought in.

COURT CLERK

Bring in the prisoner.

(Beck is goodlooking and well dressed.)

Maps for order  
 Quiet please!  
 (Let onto 11:00)  
 Now, if the District Attorney is ready....

HADISON

(The Judge smiles, then goes to the A. L.  
 (To the D. A.)  
 May it please the Court. (To the D. A.) Gentlemen of  
 the jury. The People against Dr. John Beck! In the  
 matter of murder, the People against any person is  
 a serious solemn matter. But in this instance of  
 the People against Dr. Beck, (Pause, we, here in  
 this courtroom shall have to gaze deeply and at  
 length into the soul of a long-scheming, mercil-  
 less killer, and find there sordid and unwhole-  
 of any courtroom.

years. I have been in the District Attorney's  
 office for twelve years. And the last five of  
 those twelve years I have had charge of that  
 office. But never before have I had to prosec-  
 ute such a case as this one. Dr. John Beck, a  
 prominent Negro physician, is accused of kill-  
 ing his wife.

The bare statement of the State's case against  
 Dr. Beck is very, very simple. The State will

On July 1st, murdered his wife in his  
 home which is on 139th Street in Harlem. The  
 State will prove that this was a premeditated  
 crime: that Dr. Beck killed his wife in cold  
 blood with a surgical instrument. The State  
 will prove that Dr. Beck's motives for killing  
 Amanda Beck were lust for another woman, revenge  
 against his wife for an act she had committed  
 early in their association, and greed for the  
 goodly amount of property which was hers.

peculiarly subjected to the sociology and condi-  
 tions under which Negroes live - conditions hither-  
 to unknown to me - we have found it necessary, in  
 the interest of a fair trial, to have a Negro ap-  
 pointed Special Assistant District Attorney.

our good fortune to have secured the services of  
 a most able lawyer. I refer to the gentleman at  
 the State's table, Mr. Luther Fields, Counselor  
 At Law. (Fields bows. COUNCILMAN this case to the D. A.)  
 With his assistance the State has been able pro-  
 ceed. Dr. Beck,  
 People's time and hard-earned funds.

bare outline of the facts. During the course of this trial the State will show that Dr. Beck made undue and unwholesome use of his profession - one of the most honorable and most humane professions known to mankind: that he planned to encourage other Negro physicians likewise to mishandle and abuse the medical profession: that he had a peculiar, cold-blooded complex which made him ignore (To Xs L. to S., the affectionately intimate duties of a husband: a complex of which he was utterly and sanely aware, and which finally drove him to remove his wife from this earthly scene by stabbing her in the back! (action in court) The State now calls its first witness. Dr. Alfred Hicks. (HICKS enters X,

CLEK

Alfred Hicks to the stand! Dr. Alfred Hicks!

(HICKS Xs. R. moves name to S.E.C. Clerk Xs

D.L. of stand)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

HICKS

I do.

CLEK

Sit down. (HICKS sits)

MADISON

(Xs L. to stand,

Dr. Hicks, are you not the Medical Examiner of this City?

DR. HICKS

Yes, sir: I am.

MADISON

And for how long have you so served the City?

DR. HICKS

For nine years.

MADISON

Dr. Hicks....are you a white man?

COLLINGS

(Up. Sur rise in court)

Objection!

(FELDS up)

MADISON

If it please the Court....

## JUDGE ARCHER

The Court feels it only proper and fair to warn the District Attorney that the U.S. Supreme Court has looked with disfavor upon distinctions of color made in trials. (Lm. Xs to table. Motion to Pl. P. u. As L.)

## FIELDS

If the Court please. The State dislikes to make any reference to color ~~admission~~. But in this instance, the State believes it utterly necessary to do so; not only in questioning Dr. Hicks, but also in questioning other witnesses who are to ~~take~~ take the stand. It is not for the purpose of embarrassing witnesses that the State is asking them to declare their color under oath. On the contrary, ~~it makes its plea in the belief that it is~~ to the advantage of the entire Negro race that in this trial such declaration be made.

## JUDGE ARCHER

Mr. Collins, the Court is forced to take notice of the direction whence this plea is made. The Court believes the State to be within its rights to make this request--under the circumstances it has named. Still the plea is strange and unusual and may lead to unwholesome debate. The Court overrules the objection and has stated this opinion for the record.

Your Honor, I respectfully object.

## MADISON

Now, Dr. Hicks, are you a white man?

## DR. HICKS

Yes sir, I am a white man.

Thank You.

## MADISON

Did you perform an autopsy on a woman, Amanda Beck?

## DR. HICKS

I did.



50"

Can you tell us what caused her death?

DR. HICKS

She died from a wound inflicted by a long, keen  
her left shoulder blade, penetrating her heart.

MADISON

Would you say that a person well informed about anatomy had used that instrument as a weapon with which to kill Amanda Beck?

COLLINGS

(Lc,

Objection!

MADISON

Never mind answering, Dr. Hicks. I withdraw the question. (Turns to Collins at CO., Could you say, Dr. Hicks, just what time on Wednesday, July 1st, Amanda Beck died?

DR. HICKS

I first examined the body on July 1st at 7 o'clock in the evening. Judging from the state to which Rigor Mortis had advanced, I should say sometime between 10 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon.

MADISON

Thank you, Dr. Hicks. That'll be all. Your witness, Mr. Collings.

COLLINGS

No questions.

(HICKS leaves stand. resumes seat)

MADISON

(U,

Will Patrolman James James take the stand?

CLERK

James James to the stand! James James to the stand!

(JAMES Xs to stand) (He is in uniform)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

A.

MADISON

How long have you been a police man?

JAMES

Been on active duty for years; was on reserves two years.

MADISON

Are you a colored person, Patrolman James?

JAMES

If I ain't, I been kiddin' myself a long time. (Laughs in court. J. says)

MADISON

Do you patrol a block on 139th St. between 7th and 8th Avenue? And if you do, did you patrol that block at any time during July 1st?

JAMES

Dat's man beat! And ah was on it th' afternoon of July 1st. Ah remembers dat day well!

MADISON

Tell us why you remember the day of July 1st so well?

JAMES

(Sittin, up)

Bout half past six o'clock dat evenin' Ah was walkin' on 139th St. goin' from 7th Avenue to 8th Avenue when Dr. Beck come a-runnin' out 'en his house.

MADISON

Did you know Dr. Beck?

JAMES

✓ Yes, everybody in that part of Harlem knowed Dr. Beck.

MADISON

What happened after you saw Dr. Beck run out of his house?

JAMES

He call me an' said: "Corner. Somebody kille wife!" Den I followed him intuh his house, o his office on th' first floor to where he takes care of the sick folks.

MADISON

You mean the Surgery, don't you?

JAMES

Dat's what Ah mean. Th' surgery. Well, Ah seed a woman layin' 'cross an operatin' table. Her head was hangin' down on one side an' her feet was touchin' th' floor on the other side. A knife was stuck in her back -- clear to th' handle. Th' prisoner said she was dead; so him bein' a doctor, Ah tuck his word for it.

MADISON

What did you say to Dr. Beck?

JAMES

Ah asked him who found th' body. An' he said he found it. He said he come home -- aftuh bein' out 'bout all day -- an' found her dead just like that; 'bout two minutes befo' he called me. Ah tole him not to touch nothin'. Den Ah went into th' waitin'-room part of his office an' called Headquarters, an' tole 'em tuh send up th' Homicide Squad. I didn't let Dr. Beck get out of my sight 'til th' Homicide Squad come. Dey wasn't long gettin' uptown neither!

MADISON

was anyone else in the house?

JAMES

~~Day hadn't been nobody in th' house all day but Mrs. Beck an' Dr.---~~

~~COLLINGS~~

(Up)

~~Objection. By his own admission, the witness isn't in position to answer that question, since he wasn't in the house to make to make sure of his statement. Besides his answer is not responsive.~~

~~JUDGE ARCHER~~

~~Objection sustained. Witness will pick up the case as asked him.~~

JAMES

From th' time I went inside, nobody but me an' Dr. Beck was in th' house til th' Homicide Squad come.

MADISON

Then Dr. Beck was the first person -- so far as you know -- to see Mrs. Beck after she was killed?

JAMES

So far as Ah know, Dr. Beck was th' first person to see Mrs. Beck aftuh she was killed.

MADISON

Is it possible that Dr. Beck would be aware of the time you would ordinarily pass his house?

~~COLLINGS~~

~~I say the question is immaterial and...~~

~~JUDGE ARCHER~~

~~Objection overruled.~~

MADISON

Then Dr. Beck did know that you would be passing his house at that hour?

COLLINGS

~~Exhausted~~  
Objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection sustained.

MADISON

Alright then: we shall have it that it was not positive that Dr. Beck knew this fact; but possible that he may have known it. (Bows to COLLINGS)

COLLINGS

(Up)

Objection! The witness hasn't stated that such a thing was possible.

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection sustained. ~~Indirectly asks to ask question. ARCHER stops him? Now will the witness answer the original question which was, I believe, was it possible that Dr. Beck knew the time the witness would be passing Dr. Beck's house. (CO. sit)~~

JAMES

Sure it's possible dat he could know what time Ah passes his house. Yaas suh!

MADISON

That's all, Officer James. Your witness, Mr. Collings. (Xs to CLERK-whispers-Xs to table)

COLLINGS

(Seated)

Patrolman James, do you know for a fact that Dr. Beck would be aware of the time you would ordinarily pass his house?

JAMES

No suh!

COLLINGS

That's all. (JAMES returns to seat in courtroom)

(As JAMES leaves the stand, CLERK calls INSP. W. R. VALLEY to the stand)

CLERK

Inspector O'Malley to the witness stand!

Inspector O'Malley to the stand!

(O'M. K. A. Gives name to STE G. Court's  
stand.)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole  
truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

O'MALLEY

I do. (Sits. Clerk sits at floor D.D.)

MADISON

(A n to stand)

Now, Inspector.....

O'MALLEY

I'm Inspector of Detectives, working out of the  
Central Bureau. Been on the force twenty years.  
And so help me...I'm a white man!

MADISON

(Laughs)

That's saving time, unless Mr. Collings files  
objections with the Court.

COLLINGS

(Sits.)

No objections, Mr. District Attorney.

MADISON

Where were you, Inspector, on July 1st at about  
six-thirty in the evening?

O'MALLEY

I was in my office at Central Bureau, talking to  
Dr. Hicks, the Medical Examiner of the city.

MADISON

What happened?

O'MALLEY

My telephone rang. It was a call from Officer  
James James (Note in direction of JAMES) of the  
135th Street precinct, who reported that a wo-  
man had been killed at an address on 139th Street.  
Since the Medical Examiner was in the office, I  
asked him to accompany me and five of the Homici-  
cide Squad to the scene of the killing.

MADISON

(Xs to table. Pick up surgical robe)

Tell us whom you found when you reached the 139th  
Street address.

ask and you see

O'MALLEY

We were admitted to the house by Officer James and Dr. Beck-- that man seated at yonder table with Counsellor Collings.

Go on.

O'MALLEY

We at once proceeded to the Surgery where the body lay. I remained there. I told one of my men to explore the entire house and to report back to me in the Surgery from time to time. Other than in the Surgery we found nothing of material importance to the crime which had been committed.

MADISON

At what time did Dr. Beck say he left the house that day?

(Disbelieving)

O'MALLEY

He said he left the house at 10:30 that morning; and returned at 6:20 that evening.

MADISON

How did he say he left his wife? Did he say he left her in good health?

O'MALLEY

Dr. Beck swore his wife was quite alight when he left her that morning.

MADISON

Now tell us, Inspector, how did you go about solving this crime of murder?

COLLINGS

I object to the form of that question!

MADISON

Very well. I'll change the form of the question. Tell us, Inspector, how you attempted to solve this crime of murder.

O'MALLEY

We used every resource at our command. Men, our crime laboratories, and the police departments in other cities. I detailed 35 seasoned detectives to work night and day; 15 extra men to follow up clues in places out of town, and ten undercover men to run down ~~special~~ <sup>unusual</sup> leads. Including myself, there were 61 men relieved from all other duties except the solving of this case.

MADISON

And why did you put so many men on one case, Inspector?

O'MALLEY

What else can you do--when the richest nigra in America is killed? This woman had made her fortune from some sort of grease she used on nigra people's hair. She was worth about five million in business equipment, real estate and cash.

MADISON

I see. And now will you tell the Court and the jury the detailed steps you took in the investigation of Amanda Beck's death.

O'MALLEY

Well...you have to be thorough about a person like that. No matter her color. And....

COLLINGS

(Up)

I object. The witness' answer isn't responsive.

JUDGE ARCHER

Sustained. The witness will please answer questions directly.

O'MALLEY

(Glaring at COLLINGS)

We went into the possibility of robbery and assault during robbery first.

MADISON

Why?

O'MALLEY

Because Dr. Beck tried to make us believe a thief had broken into the house, and had killed Amanda Beck when she surprised him at his work.

MADISON

And you found no evidence that a robbery had been committed?

COLLINGS

I object. That's a leading question.

O'MALLEY

There was no evidence to support a robbery theory.

COLLINGS

(Shouting at O'MALLEY)

Don't answer questions before the Court rules on my objections.

O'MALLEY

I've been a cop long enough to know court procedure. And don't you shout while speaking to me.

MADISON

This particular interruption by the Defense Attorney is unseemly, your Honor. This witness is offering straight testimony backed by twenty years of active police work....

COLLINGS

I ask the Court by what right does the witness presume to direct me how I shall use my voice while conducting the business of my client?

JUDGE ARCHER

Mr. Collings' objection sustained. Hereafter witness will address complaints regarding conduct of either counsel to the Court. You may continue, Mr. Madison.

MADISON

What did you do about Dr. Beck's robbery theory, Inspector?

O'MALLEY

We couldn't find any evidence to support such a wild idea. And after proper investigation -- and incidentally, ten of the detectives we used on this case were nigras -- we discarded robbery as a motive for murder.

MADISON

And what else did you do, Inspector?

O'MALLEY

We investigated the backgrounds of every single individual in the Beck household. I had Dr. Beck's patients investigated and we followed all the leads concerning the people connected with Amanda Beck's hair-dressing business [to the bitter end]

MADISON

And to whom did the clues you uncovered point?

O'MALLEY

To Dr. Beck.

COLLINGS

Objection.

JUDGE ARCHER

Overruled.

MADISON

And, Inspector, why did you suspect Dr. Beck?

O'MALLEY

First of all, because of his insistence that Mrs. Beck had been killed during <sup>this</sup> robbery -- a robbery which ~~never~~ happened.

MADISON

I see. Go on.

O'MALLEY

Then when we asked Dr. Beck to tell us where he had been during the day, he couldn't give us much of an answer.

MADISON

What did he tell you?



O'MALLEY

He said he had been to a semi-pro baseball game over in Jersey. But he couldn't prove he was there. Then he said he had been out driving, and something had gone wrong with the motor of his car. He said he had stopped to fix it. But his hands were too clear for him to have worked on the motor of his car in the past 24 hours. We had our chemist examine his hands.

MADISON

Inspector, when you investigated Dr. Beck's background, did you find anything in it which caused you to suspect he had killed his wife?

COLLINGS

I object.

JUDGE ARCHER

Sustained. Jury will disregard that answer.

(Gets knife from his table.)

MADISON

Now, Inspector, tell me -- have you ever seen this object which I'm holding in my hand? That is: before now?

O'MALLEY

Yes. I've seen it before now. The first time I saw it, it was sticking in the back of Amanda Beck as she lay across an operating table in Dr. Beck's surgery. The prisoner identified it as a surgical instrument he used in his practice of medicine -- after Dr. Hicks drew it out of the body. And since then I've had occasion to examine it at length.

MADISON

Were there any finger-prints on it, Inspector?

O'MALLEY

None. Somebody had taken good care to wipe the handle of that knife clean. (A casual Harlem burglar -- the sort Dr. Beck wanted us to look for -- wouldn't take such pains; and then go off and leave the knife still sticking in the victim's back.)

MADISON

Thank you, Inspector. If it please the Court, I wish to introduce this knife in evidence as the weapon which caused the death of Amanda Beck.

COLLINGS

No objection.

MADISON

Your witness, Mr. Collings.

COLLINGS

(Up-at table)

Inspector, where were you born?

(MADISON takes knife, tags it, and places it on Stenographer's table.)

MADISON

(Up)

I object. We're trying a man for murder: not investigating Inspector O'Malley's place of birth.

COLLINGS

If it please the Court, I wish to follow a line of questioning which will prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that Inspector O'Malley's investigation of Amanda Beck's death was colored by sheer, bitter prejudice. That because of personal reasons he sought to direct the clues he uncovered in this case toward Dr. Beck so that Dr. Beck would appear guilty of having committed a murder he could not possibly have committed.

JUDGE ARCHER

If that is the line of questioning the Attorney for the Defense wishes to follow, Mr. Madison, I can see no reason why Inspector O'Malley shouldn't answer the question regarding his birth place. Objection over-ruled.

COLLINGS

(Turning to O'MALLEY)  
Now tell us where you were born!

O'MALLEY

In Atlanta, Georgia. *(conveniently - I see, says Collins to speak to the law)*

COLLINGS

How old were you when you left Georgia to come up North to New York?

O'MALLEY

A grown man. Past twenty-one, anyway.

COLLINGS

(Xs to stand)  
And even now you'd call yourself a good Southerner; after having been in New York for, I'd say, at least twenty years?

O'MALLEY

I call myself a good Southerner!

COLLINGS

But you still cling to some of those fine old Southern ideas, don't you? For instance, a while back you said to me: "...and keep your voice down when speaking to me!"

MAD SON

Objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

Over-ruled.

COLLINGS

Answer the question, Inspector!

O'MALLEY

Am, yes!  
I still think some of our Southern ideas, re-  
sponsible for the great South, excellent! So, what?

COLLINGS

How nice! Now we're getting to know each other! I'm a lawyer!  
But I thank God more for being a lawyer  
in New York.....

MADISON

...ing.....

JUDGE A.C.TE

(Sternly,  
Objection sustained. To S.E. O' Strike out that  
whole speech made by Mr. Collings. (T. CO. Now sir,  
confine yourself to questioning the witness!

COLLINGS

(30 Ing to JU)  
I apologize for my enthusiasm. (X. to t l l e,  
And ask that my apology be placed in the record.

(JU. nods to CO.-then to S.E. O. CO. refers to ers)

Inspector O'Malley, during the first three weeks  
you investigated the murder of Amanda Beck you  
worked on the theory that a prowler had killed  
her, didn't you?

O'MALLEY

I investigated her death from every angle.

COLLINGS

But you didn't begin to suspect Dr. Beck until  
your southern blood began to boil; did you?

(U.S.)

MADISON

I object to that question!

COLLINGS

I withdraw the question. Now, Inspector: is it

~~of the last patient to visit his office before Mrs. Beck was killed~~

O'MALLEY

~~of the last patient to visit his office before Mrs. Beck was killed~~  
dutiful question.

COLLINGS

I agree that it was a dutiful question. But what

O'MALLEY

Naturally, I asked him who Miss DuLane was.

COLLINGS

(Xing to stand)  
Isn't it a fact that you said: "The musical comedy  
star?" And when Dr. Beck said: "Yes"; isn't it a  
fact that you said: "Where do you get off having a  
white woman like that as a patient, nigger?"

O'MALLEY

(Half ris'ng) I said no such thing!

DR. BECK

(30 Ing up-overturning chair, That's a damn lie!

COLLINGS

... careful....

E.'s about or,

I humbly ask that the Court overlook this interruption from my client. I'm sure the Court understands the strain Dr. Beck is undergoing.....

JUDGE ARCHER

(Colnly)

Both you and your client are intelligent persons, Mr. Collings. It is unseemly that your client take undue advantage of the Court's time with such language and performance. And if it occurs again, the Court will hold you, Mr. Collings, responsible; and deal with you accordingly. Please get on with the witness.

COLLINGS

(At L.)

Inspector, you, personally, investigated Marlens DuLane--did you not?

O'MALLEY

patients.

COLLINGS

But you were very clinical about Miss. DuLane, weren't you?

O'MALLEY

I may have asked her what was the matter with her.

COLLINGS

several times in New York so that Dr. Beck could give her treatments?

O'MALLEY

at the time of the trial.

COLLINGS

... ..

COLLINGS

... ..

COLLINGS

... ..

C'MALLEY

(Angered)

I made no comment to any detective!

COLLINGS

Didn't you say to a detective - a detective you found it convenient to send to Paris when you discovered that the Defense in this case wished to serve him with a subpoena-- didn't you say.....

MADISON

Objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection over-ruled. The question is permissible.

COLLINGS

Didn't you say: " If it takes me a lifetime, that's one nigger doctor I'll make it my business to hang!

O'MALLEY

Why should I object to a colored doctor having white patients?

COLLINGS

(Close to O'MALLEY)

Answer the question, Inspector.

O'MALLEY

I didn't say that! But dammit, what if I did? (Up. Where do you get off with such smartness?

(Xs to Judge)

COLLINGS

That's all, Inspector. (Xs to table)

O'MALLEY

What? what.....? (Xs to Judge)

JUDGE ARCHER

Mr. Collings says that's all. You may step down. (O'MALLEY leaves stand and court room) (Xs to table)

MADISON

If the Court please, I should like to call Miss Ella Gordon as the state's next witness. (Xs R. to post at re' location, and escorts ELLA GORDON to the stand; while the CLERK calls

(ELLA GORDON is sworn in, gives name to the CLERK; sits) (she is an elderly woman, dressed very plainly in an old fashioned style.)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

I do. (Sits)  
(CL. sits D.L. of bench)

(XII, to start)  
Tell us what your life's work is, Miss Gordon.

My life's work, Walter?....

since this is a court of law, and the occasi<sup>on</sup>  
attorney with <sup>it would be give</sup> <sup>correct to address the</sup> <sup>subject</sup> <sup>formality</sup>

of mine. And since he was a wee lad, I've known him best as Walter. However, I shall refrain from so addressing him, and shall, I hope, use the correct formality.

tell us what your life's work is, Miss Gordon.

school teacher.

Tell us how long you've been a teacher.

I have been a teacher in the New York Public School system for the past forty years.

(L. -Xin, L.)  
 If that's all right please, we can go on.  
 testimony seems immaterial to ...

to come as <sup>soon</sup> material to the motive to State

MADISON

(X... to ...)

Now, Miss Gordon, tell us where you've been teaching of late. In what part of the city have you been teaching?

ELLA GORDON

For the past twenty years, now, I've been teaching in the Harlem section of the city.

MADISON

And, Miss Gordon...you're a white woman, aren't you?

ELLA GORDON

Why yes, I am.

Now tell us exactly what your duties as a teacher are.

ELLA GORDON

I teach what is commonly known as the "Special children's Class". It's a class for subnormal boys and girls; those unfortunates who show undeniable defects of mentality. (Of course I've taken up this sort of work since you were a pupil of mine, Mr. District Attorney. (Prisoner in court) ~~Heard~~)

MADISON

Miss Gordon, do you know the prisoner, Dr. Beck?

ELLA GORDON

Yes; I know Dr. Beck.

MADISON

What took place at that meeting.

ELLA GORDON

Dr. Beck came to my class-room a little over two years ago. He asked me about a pupil of mine, John Doolittle. Usually we don't give out information concerning the unfortunates we teach; but I felt facts about John Doolittle.

MADISON

And what did you tell Dr. Beck?



From our records Dr. Beck learned that John Doolittle had one of the lowest I.Q.s of any pupil ever to attend a public school in New York. He learned that John's father, George Doolittle, had at one time been detained in a public institution for mental cases in Columbia, South Carolina. That John's mother, Lulu Doolittle, had once been a patient in a several brothers and sisters all of whom showed marked mental defects.

MADISON

And what comment did Dr. Beck make?

ELLA

"It is congenital."

MADISON

Thank you, Miss Gordon. Now Mr. Collings, you may have the witness.

COLLINGS

No questions.

(GORDON leaves stand. MA. escorts her R. to rail

MADISON

(Xs C.)

CL

(DOO. up from seat. GUARD leads him to stand.

(GUARD Xs back - sits)

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Xs L.)  
 Ah swear fo' God! Ah ain't done nothin', Judge. Ah ain't done a thing!

(He is very ugly and very black. His clothes are mere rags. He carries a battered hat in his hands, twisting it as he talks.)

ACT ONE

JUDGE ARCHER

(Speaking in a low kindly voice)

No one has said yet that you have. Now if you please, give your attention to the gentleman beside you, the Clerk, and do as he directs you.

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

Yaas Suh.

COURT CLERK

(Speaking slowly this time)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Looks utterly perplexed; then it dawns on him what has been said; he places hand on Bible)

Oh, yaas suh! Yaas suh!

COURT CLERK

Sit down in that chair, please.

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

Thank you suh.

(Mounts stand; sits down; fumbles with hat; then drops it on floor; then picks it up; twists into ball in hands)

MADISON

Now, Mr. Doolittle. Do you know the man on trial here for murder, Dr. Beck?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

Suh?

MADISON

(Speaking a little louder)

I say do you know Dr. Beck?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

Yuh mean dat gen'man back yon'ah settin' wid dat colored man who been doin' so much talkin' in hyeah?

MADISON

Yes. That's the man I mean.

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Smiling broadly at Dr. Beck)

Yaas suh. Ah knows dat gen'man.

MADISON

Now tell us--

COLLINGS

(Interrupting) the

If it please the Court. Through testimony the District Attorney, himself, brought forth the previous

witness, the Court is aware that this witness, George Doolittle, is incompetent to testify in a case such as this-- where a man is on trial for his life.

MADISON

The State agrees with Mr. Collings concerning the competency of this witness to testify for or against Dr. Beck. The State realizes that this man is somewhat helpless. But the State contends that this man is not so helpless that he cannot identify Dr. Beck and tell under what circumstances he met Dr. Beck!

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection over-ruled.

MADISON

Thank you, your honor. Now Mr. Doolittle. Tell all of us here when and how you met Dr. Beck.

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

Ah can' remember jess when it wuz--tuh th' day. But it wuz when mah wife wuz 'bout tuh hab anuthudn baby. Ah went tuh dat doctuh's house an' axted him tuh cum see mah wife.

MADISON

And did Dr. Beck go and see your wife?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

Yaas suh! he cum right off!

MADISON

How many children do you have, Mr. Doolittle?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Shaking his head from side to side)

Lawd! Ah swear Ah don' know!

(Stands up and points to spectator's bench)

But mah wife back ovah

yondah! Ah 'spect she might know!

(Some giggling in Court)

MADISON

Have you had any children since Dr. Beck took care of you wife when she was about to have a baby--her last baby?

(Sighs)

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

Naw suh!

(Smiles broadly)

MADISON

That's all Mr. Doolittle.

COLLINGS

(Rising quickly as Doolittle attempts to leave stand)

Just a minute Mr. Doolittle!

(Walks to stand as Doolittle settles back in chair)

Mr. Doolittle! What do you do for a living? What kind of work do you do?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(As Madison stands close by)

An don' do much of nuthin', son. Ah can' git it tuh  
do!

(Exasperated)

COLLINGS

Then how do you manage to live? How do you pay rent  
and buy food, som'thing to eat? Ho do you buy clothes  
for yourself and your family?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Bobbing his head up and down wisely)

Lawd son! Ah des gist down on mah knees ani prays  
and Gawd takes kere of me.

COLLINGS

But how do you  
these things?

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Growing suddenly angry)

Ain't you got no 'spect fur what Ah des said! Ah  
tote yuh Gawd takes kere of me! Ah prays when Ah needs  
som'pen. An' Gawd sends it!

JUDGE ARCHER

(Turning toward witness)

George, the Court understands your devotion to God.  
And commends you upon your faith. But the Court also  
knows that--er things like food and clothing and shelter,  
while off-times the indirect answer to prayer, these  
things, George, come by working for them, or they come  
as gifts from people. Now tell us how you get your food  
and shelter and clothing.

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Speaking to Judge)

Well it's like dis, 'Judge. Dey's a lady--a good  
woman, too! and dey don' cum a night dat Ah don' git  
down on mah knees an' pray for her and for 'er good  
womens like her--an' she cum by evah now and den an' pays  
the rent. An' dey's a wagon lat cum--look like des when  
us needs it--wid good virtuals an' stuff. An' th' clothes  
Ah gits 'em 'round tuh folkses' houses an' axtes fur  
'em. Den th' lady--she bring clothes too!

COLLINGS

(Suddenly)

No more questions.

(George Doolittle leaves stand, walks away)

Right grinning)

MADISON

(As Collings walks to his table)

-Tuh Doolittle, please take the stand.

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(From just inside swinging-gate)

Go on 'up dere now, honey! Dey ain't goin' tuh do  
nuthing but ax't you a whole lot dat Jon' mean nuthin'!

COLLINGS

(Suddenly)

No more questions!

JUDGE ARCHER

(When Doolittle remains in chair bewildered)

You may go, George.

MADISON

(As Collings crosses to his table.)

Lulu Doolittle, please take the stand.

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(As he crosses to gate.)

Is on up dere now, none. 'Ev aint going; t'n d; nothin' but ax  
 you a whole lot dat don' mean nothin'

LULU DOOLITTLE

(A tiny, black woman, wearing a panorama of  
 clothing, ill arranged on her person crosses  
 left.)

Hush yo mouf, George! Hush yo mouf!

COURT CLERK

Lulu Doolittle to stand! Lulu Doolittle.

(When she comes to stand.)

Yo. solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing  
 but the truth, so help you God?

LULU DOOLITTLE

Sho, Ah does! (She sits in chair.)

MADISON

Now, Mrs. Doolittle. I didn't put this question to 'r. Doolittle,  
 but I will put it to you. Are you a colored person?

LULU DOOLITTLE

(Rocks back and forth laughing.)

Ah. An'm colored. Man hasb n's colored too. o's all my chillans!

(Angrily.)

An' don' you ax me no no' questions. Cause man hasband don'  
 'low me t'n talk t'n no white mens. n' you knows why!

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

(Rises from spectator's chair.)

Now don' yuh start actin' like no damn fool, Lulu!

LULU DOOLITTLE

(Jumps to feet, glares at George, clenching her  
 fists.)

Stop dat cussin' me--yuh, George Doolittle! Don' start me off!  
 Yuh know An's likely t'n throw a fit

(Flaps back in seat when Judge raps.)

An' Ah aint talkin' to no white mens!

GEORGE DOOLITTLE

All right den! But mind yo' business!

(MADISON crosses to his table. Talks to FIELDS.)

JUDGE ARCHER

There will be no further demonstration in this 'court'

MADISON

If the Court please, attorney Fields will question this witness for the State.

(JUDGE ARCHER nods. FIELDS crosses to witness chair.)

this witness for the State.

(Judge Warner nods. Fields gets up, walks to witness stand)

FIELDS

(Smiles pleasantly at Lulu who breaks in-  
to unseemly giggles, peeping at him from  
behind handkerchief)

Now then, Mrs. Doolittle. Perhaps you and I can get  
on together. Just want you to answer a few questions--  
very simple questions.

LULU DOOLITTLE

Ef yuh ast 'em.

FIELDS

How many children have you, Mrs. Doolittle?

LULU DOOLITTLE

Lawd hab mercy!--Ah don' know! Dere's Sally, Mary, Louis, Sammy,  
Willie, George, Amy, Mattie, Tom, Mark--

Far as Ah kin recolect--'bout near twenty. Dey is  
scattered ovah evahware. Some hyean; some dere. Some of  
'em locked up places--

(Collings laughs out loud)

FIELDS

You have a son called John, haven't you?

LULU DOOLITTLE

(Proudly)

Dat's mah smatest chile. Dey still lets him go tuh  
school. He kin sh-nuff write his name now! He know near  
heap as much as the teacher too!

FIELDS

When did you have your last child, Mrs. Doolittle?

LULU DOOLITTLE

(Coyly)

'Bout two years past.

FIELDS

Do you remembers the doctor you had at that time?

LULU DOOLITTLE

(Still coy)

Lawd yes! Dat goodlookin' culled man dere--Doc. Beck!

FIELDS

Now Mrs. Doolittle. Until you had your last baby, you  
had a child every single year of your marriage, didn't you?

LULU DOOLITTLE

Yaas sth! Evah single year Ah been married--'till mah  
las' chile come two years past.

FIELDS

And you like babies, don't you Mrs. Doolittle?

LULU DOOLITTLE

Day is sweet. Cose Ah likes 'em!

FIELDS

And you don't mind having babies, do you?

LULU DOOLITTLE

(Hanging head coyly)

Naw suh.

FIELDS

But since Mr. Beck attended you, there haasn't been the least sign of a new baby, has there?

LULU DOOLITTLE

Naw suh.

FIELDS

That's all, Mrs. Doolittle. Unless Mr. Collings--

COLLINGS

(Stands; looks slyly at Fields, then at Madison, waves his hand)

No questions.

(Lulu scrambles down from stand and runs Right to where her husband sits)

(Fields back to table. Madison nods to him)

MADISON

(Walking toward witness-stand. Holds some papers in his hand)

The State calls Miss Hilda Redd. to the Stand as the State's next witness.

(Stops to give his attention to papers he hold in his hand)

COURT CLERK

(Rises, holding Bible in hand)

~~Miss Hilda Redd~~ Hilda Redd to the stand!

(A well dressed woman of about thirty-five leaves spectator's bench and walks toward witness stand. She is a "high brown". She looks as if she may have been quite pretty at one time. She is still attractive. But there are unmistakable signs of dissipation about her face. She carries herself easily, even daintily. However, above all else about her, is an air of worldliness.)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

HILDA REDD

(In a clear, cultured voice)

I do.

(She sits down in chair, careful to be



graceful about the action. Crosses legs. She has pretty legs.)

MADISON

Now Miss Redd, tell us, are you a colored person?

HILDA REDD

(With a knowing smile)

Yes. I am.

MADISON

And how do you make your living?

HILDA REDD

I'm a nurse.

MADISON

Now, Miss Redd. Tell us in what hospital you received your professional training. ~~Tell us whether or not you are a graduate nurse, and tell us how long you have been in this profession.~~

HILDA REDD

I did my first two years' student work in Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C. I did two years' work in Harlem Hospital. I'm a certified graduate Nurse. And counting my student days, I've been in this profession fourteen years.

MADISON

Will you tell us briefly the duties of a graduate nurse?

HILDA REDD

Besides looking after a patient's general welfare, a graduate nurse must be able to keep charts, assist at operations, and have a practical knowledge of medicine.

MADISON

Thank you. Were you ever employed by the Prisoner, Dr. Beck?, Miss Redd?

HILDA REDD

Yes. I was employed by Dr. Beck--once upon a time. Most of the work I did for him was in his office. Besides my actual nursing activities, I did his general clerical work. And when the occasion demanded--~~which was quite often~~ I accompanied Dr. Beck on his calls to his patients' homes. ~~Sometimes it was necessary for me to remain in the homes of his patients from over night to a two-week stay.~~

ADISON

Then, Miss Redd, you were well acquainted with Dr. Beck's work, his patients, and his general routine?

HILDA REDD

I was.

ADISON

Were you acquainted with his home life and domestic affairs?

HILDA REDD

I was well acquainted with his home life--since he

ADISON

What was Dr. Beck's attitude toward his wife?

COLLINGS

This question constitutes conjecture. It's only a guess.

JUDGE ARCHER

CO. -1

HILDA REDD

Dr. Beck told me that he had never loved her. He further told me--without my having asked him to do so--that he hadn't the least affection for Mrs. Beck. He merely tolerated the woman because he had to. And once Mrs. Beck told me that she and Dr. Beck had never had conjugal relations. That he had denied her such a relationship.

ADISON

(Turns to BE.--to JUR.--then to REDD, Tell us, Miss Redd, did you help Dr. Beck in the case of Mrs. Doolittle, when Mrs. Doolittle was with child?

HILDA REDD

Yes. I was present at the delivery of Mrs. Doolittle's baby. I didn't happen to go with Dr. Beck when he made his first visit to the Doolittle home. (CO. starts rise. REDD speaks quickly) However, I learned about that visit from the doctor, himself.

Tell us, Miss Redd, when was the first time you saw Dr. Beck at the Doolittle home?

HILDA REDD

Dr. Beck came directly to the office from the Doolittle home. He looked terribly disgusted

ly showed his disgust. He said: "Hilda, I've been in a mink's den. No; it smelled worse than that. It was a skunk's den. And I've seen the blackest man and woman in the world. Stick a knife in that woman, and open her up, and her meat would be black. (cackles in court) When niggers come that black they've got no business living!" (JU. raps)

MADISON

Dr. Beck!--said that about his own race?

HILDA REDD

Yes sir. Dr. Beck said: "That woman and her husband are spawning a batch of congenital nuts."

Why, Hilda!--the house is loaded down with a bunch of crazy people from parents to latest offspring. The woman has already had a set of twins and a set of triplets. My God!

But

MADISON

And then what happened?

HILDA REDD

Dr. Beck had me go to the Doolittle house. He wanted me to do some cleaning there, because Mrs. Doolittle was not a good housekeeper. Then I accompanied Dr. Beck there when he delivered the child.

MADISON

Tell us what happened at the delivery.

HILDA REDD

We had absolutely no trouble delivering the child. Mrs. Doolittle came through it all in excellent fashion. Dr. Beck used no anaesthetic for the delivery. But after the child was born, he had me put Mrs. Doolittle asleep with ether. And then he performed an operation.

MADISON

An operation? Tell us, was this operation at all, little or to the child?

COLLINGS

(U)  
Objection! The witness isn't competent to answer

medical questions of that type. Besides, the question is immaterial and irrelevant.

MADISON

That question, your honor, is vitally material to the motive for which the State contends Dr. Beck killed his wife.

JUDGE A. C. E.

As the question is now framed I shall have to sustain Mr. Collings' objection.

ADDED

Very well; did you ask Dr. Beck about the necessity of that operation, Miss Redd? And if you did, what was his answer?

COLLINGS

I object!

JUDGE A. C. E.

Over-ruled. Witness may answer that question.

MILDA REDD

I did ask Dr. Beck about the necessity of that operation! And Dr. Beck told me that the operation was not necessary to either the present health of Mrs. Doolittle and the new-born baby or their future health.

MADISON

Just what did Dr. Beck do when he performed this operation?

COLLINGS

I object!

JUDGE A. C. E.

Why is Mr. Madison asking that question?

MADISON

That question illustrates the motive which the State will prove prompted Dr. Beck to kill his wife!

(X- L. to MA) COLLINGS

Is Mr. Madison trying Dr. Beck for murder or is he attempting to tell us how he thinks medicine should be practiced?

FIELDS

(To)

If the Court please!

COLLINGS

... of this ...  
...  
... one crime, and ...



JUDGE ARCHE.  
Strike that out. Jury will disregard that answer.

just MADISON  
Beck, Miss Redd.

HILDA REDD  
A month later he discharged me, and employed  
another nurse.

MADISON  
That's all, Miss Redd. Thank you very, very much.  
Our witness, Mr. Hollings.

COLLINGS  
Dr. Beck is a handsome man, isn't he?

HILDA REDD  
What?

COLLINGS  
I said: Dr. Beck is a handsome man, isn't he?

HILDA REDD  
I am sorry; but I have no particular affec-  
tion for him.

COLLINGS  
Now, is it fair for our testimony to be admitted  
that Dr. Beck fired you because of a personal grudge  
over the Doellittle case.....

HILDA REDD

He did discharge me because of that! (CO. turns)

COLLINGS

Isn't it true, Miss Redd, that you like liquor; that you often let it get the best of you. And isn't it true that one day when a tonsilectomy had to be performed on a child-- a very simple operation, mind you--isn't it true that you were too drunk to assist? And didn't the child's mother have to help Dr. Beck when you passed out, cold drunk with Harlem gin? Answer Miss Redd: wasn't this the reason Dr. Beck fired you?

HILDA REDD

I was ill. I wasn't drunk.

COLLINGS

(Close to REDD)

Remember you're under oath, Miss Redd!

MADISON

(Up)

I object to Mr. Collings' methods, your Honor. He's deliberately threatening the witness.

JUDGE ASCHER

~~Objection Sustained. Mr. Collings. (MA. sits.)~~

*Objection Sustained*

COLLINGS

(Xing L. of box)

Isn't it a fact, Miss Redd, that you're exceedingly fond of men. All men! That your seductive practices upon men are those even of nymphomania!

HILDA REDD

(Sharp) That's a lie!

COLLINGS

(Without pause for above)

And once, Hilda Redd, didn't your abnormal craving for men and more men -- didn't that craving drive you to the seduction of a fifteen year old lad, recovering from a mild case of scarlet fever? And didn't the boy's mother complain to ~~the~~ Dr. Beck? And tell him she would report the matter to the police if he didn't immediately ~~and~~ discharge you?

HILDA REDD

No! No! No!. That woman hated me. I merely let the boy kiss me. And that woman hated me for it. She had some sort of fixation about that boy!

COLLINS 75

(Comm. XIV. R.)

Now in your testimony, Miss Add, you said you were well acquainted with Dr. Jack's ways, his household and his domestic life. (Pause - Her quick turn to REDD. Now tell us, where were you on the first day of July when the murder was committed?

HILDA REDD

1-1-I was in Chicago. I was there--in Chicago.  
I went there with Mr. and Mrs. Hilton. Mrs. Hil-  
ton was quite ill. I made the trip there and back  
with them. We left two weeks before the murder.  
We didn't come back until two weeks after the mur-  
der. A detective came there a week after the mur-  
der to talk to me....

COLLINGS

Oh, I see....

HILDA REDD

(Screen)

(CO.Xs 3. to table)

JUDGE ARC 31

123

The witness will be more <sup>receptive</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>idea</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>language</sup>

COLLINGS

(At Table)

And now, Miss Redd, another question. Isn't it  
 true that Dr. [redacted] and you--isn't it  
 true that Dr. [redacted] and you--

MADISON

(Up-Xin, L.)

I object! This question is immaterial! There's nothing to it!

CELLINGS

(Xin-ji to bench)

may stop these charges against my client. It has no place in this trial.

611 1-100

Case 13

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JUDGE A.CIE.

If Mr. Madison thinks that such a course is necessary, he may have Mr. Fields take the stand. (Pl. Xs to stand. Ju. ministers sat.)

MADISON

Since you are professionally acquainted with Court procedure, Mr. Fields, I'll merely ask you to tell in your own way exactly how you came to be connected with this trial.

FIELDS

(Absolutely at ease)

Naturally, I read of Mrs. Beck's death in the newspapers. But my interest in the matter was no more than that of any average citizen. However, shortly before Dr. Beck was arrested, I received a letter from you, Mr. Madison, asking that I call at your office. I did go to your office at the appointed time. It was there that I learned that the State wished my services in

since the case had circumstances peculiar to my race and color, which I felt it my duty to help clarify, I agreed to help the State with this case. For my services I receive a salary set by the District Attorney.

MADISON

Are there any personal reasons why you came into this case for the State, Mr. Fields?

FIELDS

None whatever!

MADISON

If Mr. Collings care to cross-examine Mr. Fields... (Sits at table)

COLLINGS

(W-Xs L.)

Is it true, Mr. Fields, that you went to Dr. Beck's home to see him? Hilda Redd, in her <sup>claim</sup> suit against Dr. Beck?

FIELDS

Yes. That's true.

COLLINGS

And Dr. Beck refused to settle for any amount?

FIELDS

That's quite true.

COLLINGS

Is it true that Dr. Beck literally kicked you out of the house?

FIELDS

(embarrassed)

He used force--yes!

COLLINGS

Then with that in mind, Mr. Fields, what is your attitude toward Dr. Beck?

FIELDS

<sup>What</sup> I have no ill feeling toward Dr. Beck--at all. ~~that's what you want to know.~~

COLLINGS

(Smiling unpleasantly)

You testified that you once went to Dr. Beck's house, didn't you?

FIELDS

Yes.

COLLINGS

Then--just for reason of record--tell us where you were on July 1st, when Mrs. Beck was killed?

FIELDS

(Laughing)

Counsellor for Defense is, himself, aware that I was in Boston that entire week, attending the annual Congress of Colored Professional Men.

COLLINGS

There was no meeting on Wednesday, July 1st, of that week, Mr. Fields. That was the "Meet Your Colored Neighbor Day", Mr. Fields.

FIELDS

(Smiling broadly; then laughing out loud)

So it was, Mr. Collings. And I remained in Boston, meeting several very interesting Colored Neighbors of mine.

COLLINGS

No further questions, Mr. Fields

(Sits down; turns toward Dr. Beck)

(Fields leaves stand and walks back to table)

Thank you, Mr. Field. MADISON

(Up) (Carries MS. and clipping of blurb)

The State's next witness is Oscar Brooks.

(CLARA BULLOCK and Dr. Beck, an. (seats) in. after Brooks is

(BROOKS is a young mulatto)

Now, Mr. Brooks -- you're a writer aren't you?

BROOKS

Oh, yes.

MADISON

You usually write novels and short stories, do you not?

BROOKS

Naturally, I have to do a lot of prose. Money and all that. One must live, you know. But at heart I'm a poet.

MADISON

A poet, too?

BROOKS

Oh my, yes. *Why, certainly*

MADISON

I take it then, that as a writer, you are fairly well established. Do you recognize this manuscript?

BROOKS

Yes, I do.

MADISON

And what is its title?

BROOKS

"An American Spectrum".

MADISON

(*signatures*)  
Who wrote this book?

BROOKS

All of the material in it was supplied by Dr. Beck. The publishers, Bullett & Co., engaged me to work on the manuscript for purposes of style and form.

MADISON

(Handing clipping to BROOKS)

Is this advance publication notice an accurate resume of the book's contents?

BROOKS

Yes.

MADISON

Now will you read this notice, Mr. Brooks.

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BROOKS

(Reads)

Bullet & Co. announce "An American Spectrum", a sociological bombshell written by Dr. John Beck in collaboration with Oscar Brooks. Dr. Beck has summed up the theme of the book in the following words. Quote: The salvation of Negro people depends upon a subtle practice of eugenics and birth control within the race. Negro men who are leaders of their people must make it their moral duty to select very light sex opposites when contemplating marriage; and reject those darker sex opposites as totally unfit as reproductive mates. Unquote. Chapter II, page 21.

(Returns clipping to MADISON)

MADISON

Thank you, Mr. Brooks. Now tell us how you took this suggestion from your publishers, Bullet & Co., that you write some non-fiction with Dr. Beck?

BROOKS

Oh, I ~~just~~ knew Dr. Beck would be a <sup>charming</sup> ~~gorgeous~~ man to ~~be with~~ <sup>associate with</sup> so I jumped at the chance to work with him.

MADISON

And do you agree with the ideas you set down in this Manuscript?

BROOKS

Why not? They're not new ideas by any means. Everybody knows that Negroes have always discriminated among themselves. Most colored fiction writers use the same theme in their novels and stories. ~~Dear~~ Dr. Beck was merely being ~~very~~ <sup>terribly</sup> honest with the public.

MADISON

I see. Well, ~~having~~ your active work with Dr. Beck, you were on good terms with him, were you not? You knew something about his private life?

BROOKS

Oh, yes.

MADISON

Did Dr. Beck ever tell you anything regarding his attitude towards Mrs. Beck?

MADISON

In this book, wasn't Dr. Beck really seeking to mongrelize the whole American race?

BROOKS

Why--

COLLINS

Objection! Mr. Madison is trying to drag in a most disagreeable topic to prejudice the jury.

I withdraw the question. Your witness, Mr. Collings.

{Xin: to stand)

In this book, did Dr. Beck, in any way, advocate

No. He did not.

Then what was his main objective, Mr. Brooks?

on the future generations of Negroes. ~~material~~  
ter chance to advance themselves than do dark-skin-

to the 1st of 1915 to 1916 to 1917 to 1918 to 1919 to 1920 to 1921 to 1922 to 1923 to 1924 to 1925 to 1926 to 1927 to 1928 to 1929 to 1930 to 1931 to 1932 to 1933 to 1934 to 1935 to 1936 to 1937 to 1938 to 1939 to 1940 to 1941 to 1942 to 1943 to 1944 to 1945 to 1946 to 1947 to 1948 to 1949 to 1950 to 1951 to 1952 to 1953 to 1954 to 1955 to 1956 to 1957 to 1958 to 1959 to 1960 to 1961 to 1962 to 1963 to 1964 to 1965 to 1966 to 1967 to 1968 to 1969 to 1970 to 1971 to 1972 to 1973 to 1974 to 1975 to 1976 to 1977 to 1978 to 1979 to 1980 to 1981 to 1982 to 1983 to 1984 to 1985 to 1986 to 1987 to 1988 to 1989 to 1990 to 1991 to 1992 to 1993 to 1994 to 1995 to 1996 to 1997 to 1998 to 1999 to 2000 to 2001 to 2002 to 2003 to 2004 to 2005 to 2006 to 2007 to 2008 to 2009 to 2010 to 2011 to 2012 to 2013 to 2014 to 2015 to 2016 to 2017 to 2018 to 2019 to 2020 to 2021 to 2022 to 2023 to 2024 to 2025 to 2026 to 2027 to 2028 to 2029 to 2030 to 2031 to 2032 to 2033 to 2034 to 2035 to 2036 to 2037 to 2038 to 2039 to 2040 to 2041 to 2042 to 2043 to 2044 to 2045 to 2046 to 2047 to 2048 to 2049 to 2050 to 2051 to 2052 to 2053 to 2054 to 2055 to 2056 to 2057 to 2058 to 2059 to 2060 to 2061 to 2062 to 2063 to 2064 to 2065 to 2066 to 2067 to 2068 to 2069 to 2070 to 2071 to 2072 to 2073 to 2074 to 2075 to 2076 to 2077 to 2078 to 2079 to 2080 to 2081 to 2082 to 2083 to 2084 to 2085 to 2086 to 2087 to 2088 to 2089 to 2090 to 2091 to 2092 to 2093 to 2094 to 2095 to 2096 to 2097 to 2098 to 2099 to 2100 to 2101 to 2102 to 2103 to 2104 to 2105 to 2106 to 2107 to 2108 to 2109 to 2110 to 2111 to 2112 to 2113 to 2114 to 2115 to 2116 to 2117 to 2118 to 2119 to 2120 to 2121 to 2122 to 2123 to 2124 to 2125 to 2126 to 2127 to 2128 to 2129 to 2130 to 2131 to 2132 to 2133 to 2134 to 2135 to 2136 to 2137 to 2138 to 2139 to 2140 to 2141 to 2142 to 2143 to 2144 to 2145 to 2146 to 2147 to 2148 to 2149 to 2150 to 2151 to 2152 to 2153 to 2154 to 2155 to 2156 to 2157 to 2158 to 2159 to 2160 to 2161 to 2162 to 2163 to 2164 to 2165 to 2166 to 2167 to 2168 to 2169 to 2170 to 2171 to 2172 to 2173 to 2174 to 2175 to 2176 to 2177 to 2178 to 2179 to 2180 to 2181 to 2182 to 2183 to 2184 to 2185 to 2186 to 2187 to 2188 to 2189 to 2190 to 2191 to 2192 to 2193 to 2194 to 2195 to 2196 to 2197 to 2198 to 2199 to 2200 to 2201 to 2202 to 2203 to 2204 to 2205 to 2206 to 2207 to 2208 to 2209 to 2210 to 2211 to 2212 to 2213 to 2214 to 2215 to 2216 to 2217 to 2218 to 2219 to 2220 to 2221 to 2222 to 2223 to 2224 to 2225 to 2226 to 2227 to 2228 to 2229 to 2230 to 2231 to 2232 to 2233 to 2234 to 2235 to 2236 to 2237 to 2238 to 2239 to 2240 to 2241 to 2242 to 2243 to 2244 to 2245 to 2246 to 2247 to 2248 to 2249 to 2250 to 2251 to 2252 to 2253 to 2254 to 2255 to 2256 to 2257 to 2258 to 2259 to 2260 to 2261 to 2262 to 2263 to 2264 to 2265 to 2266 to 2267 to 2268 to 2269 to 2270 to 2271 to 2272 to 2273 to 2274 to 2275 to 2276 to 2277 to 2278 to 2279 to 2280 to 2281 to 2282 to 2283 to 2284 to 2285 to

ted such Negroes, who have arrived, to make a full statement of their condition. This book is intended to make Negroes aware of their rights.

L  
Will you repeat that last sentence?

BROOKS  
He wrote his book to make Negroes of light skin think.

COLLINGS  
That's all, Mr. Brooks.  
(BROOKS leaves stand. Xs to seat. (CO. sits)  
(KEEP X off to interview Brooks)

MADISON  
The State now calls Dr. Julius Sims to the stand.

GLENN  
Dr. Sims to the stand! Dr. Sims take the stand!  
(S.I.S Xs L. to stand) You solemnly swear to tell  
the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the  
truth, so help you God?

S.I.S  
I do. (Sits)

MADISON  
(Xs to stand)  
You are a physician, Dr. Sims? And a white man?

SIMS  
I am a physician. And a white man.

GLENN  
What is your best friend's name?  
what you are and what you do, Dr. Sims.

(GLENN)  
SIMS  
I am a physician. I am a doctor at the  
of a Negro university.

MADISON  
(Leaning against STENO's table)  
What do you think of the situation at the  
of a Negro university?

SIMS  
I am a physician. I am a doctor at the  
of a Negro university.

MADISON  
What do you think of the situation at the  
of a Negro university?

SIMS  
I am a physician. I am a doctor at the  
of a Negro university.

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MADISON

How did Dr. Beck manage to pay for his college education, Dr. Sims?

SIMS

He paid his tuition while he was doing his college work. He was also given work in the dining room of the college. In the summer he worked for his books and clothing.

MADISON

Dr. Sims, did you know Mrs. Beck?

SIMS

Yes. I knew her before she was Mrs. Beck.

MADISON

Tell us how you met her.

SIMS

The last two years Dr. Beck spent in medical school he seemed to have plenty of money. Money matters didn't worry him at all. It was a month before his graduation from the medical school that I met the woman who eventually became Mrs. Beck. She came to the school and I met her. I had a promise he had made to her.

MADISON

And what had Dr. Beck promised her?

SIMS

He had promised her to marry her. (She was a very beautiful girl.) He had promised her his last two years in medical school. She had been waiting for him for those two years.

MADISON

(Up-Ex A.)

And what did you do about it, Dr. Sims?

SIMS

I had Dr. Beck appear before the university president and several members of the board to answer the charges against him.

MADISON

What did Dr. Beck say to the board?

SIMS

He said that he was sorry for the charges against him. He said that he was a very poor man and that he was a very poor man. He said that he was a very poor man and that he was a very poor man.



Follow the usual rule? Do you mean that other medical students had had to answer the same charges brought by women? Is this a habit of the Negro medical student, Dr. Sims?

J.M.S

I shouldn't call it a habit, Mr. Madison. I do

In many cases it isn't a lapse of manly honor: it's economic pressure. Sometimes the charges brought by the women are perfectly justified. There are men who take advantage of some women's lust for society--colored society--and jilt them after milking the of their funds. *However,*

MADISON

What do you mean by colored society, Dr. Sims?

SIMS

Most Negroes base their higher strata of society upon lightness of skin and upon educational background. You might make this comparison: a Negro physician to a Negro woman is like a European Count or Duke would be to an ambitious American white woman.

LADISON

But... about the e-~~chased~~ promise of Dr. Beck to marry the woman who called at your office?

SIMS

We did as we always do in such cases. We withheld his diploma until he married the woman. (reaction in court)

MADISON

What might have happened, Dr. Sims, had you upheld Dr. Beck, and sent the woman away?

*would* She might have ~~no to the~~ *with* her story. ~~time Dr. Beck was met~~ *the* ~~application for license~~ *With the cancelled checks* ~~she had from Dr. Beck asking~~ *could have prevented him from* ~~method of snaring a~~ *is well known and frequently* ~~used by~~ *as Negro women.*

A...

J. ... will ... say this woman?

Well --

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

...

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection sustained.

MADISON

Well, Dr. Sims, could you say that Dr. Beck had a grievance against the woman he married?

SIMS

She was certainly not the type he would have married of his own free will.

MADISON

Thank you, Dr. Sims. Your witness, Mr. Collings.

COLLINGS

No questions.

(SIMS leaves stand and crosses to BECK.)

SIMS

I'm sorry, John. I had to testify that way.  
(Beck rises and shakes hands.)  
Perhaps some good may come of it. And good luck!

MADISON

Will Carrie Jones take the stand.

(A very black woman dressed in mourning rises.)

COURT CLERK

Carrie Jones to witness stand. Carrie Jones take the stand!  
(When she comes to witness stand.)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

CARRIE

(Tearfully.)

I do.

MADISON

(At table.)

Now Miss. Jones. What relation to the late Mrs. Amanda Beck were you?

CARRIE

I was her sister. I was her twin sister!

MADISON

And do you look like your late sister, Amanda Beck?

CARRIE

(Angrily.)

I look just like she did. She was black like me. She was ugly like me. That's why John Beck killed her.

(He rises to feet and ~~pulls out~~ <sup>at</sup> a surgical knife which has been placed by Clerk on

~~the table~~ *Stenographer's Table*)

I object! I object!

COLLINGS

(MADISON and FIELDS leaves her seat and crosses to BECK.)

CARRIE

because Alan was black and ugly'

ELENORE

Don't let her say that John! Don't let her say that!

(GUARD crosses to ELENORE and drags her back.)

CARRIE

(Coming down from witness chair and crossing toward BECK.)

Goddamn you, John Beck!

(Picks up knife from stenographer's table.)

ELENORE

(Screams.)

The knife.

CARRIE

Yeah. You didn't want her! You wanted somebody else!

ELENORE

(Break away from guard, but draws back in fear as Carrie comes toward her.)

Look out, John!

(CLERK and FIELDS struggle with CARRIE)

CARRIE

Yeah! You help kill my sister, too, Elenore Hopkins. You yellow bitch!

(She collapses sobbing as she is disarmed by Clerk and Fields.)

(REPORTER jumps over rail and takes picture with flashlight camera.)

MADISON

(Crosses to bench.)

If the Court please, Carrie Jones is in no condition to give testimony at this time. I ask that the Court grant an adjournment until tomorrow morning!

JUDGE ARCHER

(Rapping for order.)

This Court is adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning!

(GUARD begins to lead Beck away. REPORTER take flash pictures. SPECTATOR grow noisy.)

CURTAIN FALLS

ACT TWO

TIME: Wednesday morning at ten o'clock.

SCENE: The same as in Act One.

AT RISE: Judge Archer is on the bench. The courtroom is very quiet. Collings and Dr. Beck are seated at their table. Fields is seated at the State's table. The Clerk has just called Carrie Jones to the witness stand. Carrie, the Clerk and Madison are standing at the Clerk's desk, in front of the witness stand. Madison speaks to the Court.

MADISON

If it please the Court. This witness, Carrie Jones, was placed under oath on yesterday and--

JUDGE ARCHER

The witness, Carrie Jones, may take the stand without swearing to the oath a second time.

(Madison motions to Carrie to sit in the witness chair).

(Judge Archer turns and speaks to the witness.)

At this time, the Court wishes to address itself to this witness, to the lawyers for both the State and Defense, to probable witnesses to take the stand, and to the spectators.

(Signs wearily)

On yesterday, there were several incidents of disorder in this room and the Court will tolerate no more such incidents. But above ~~most~~ of all ~~above~~, the conduct of Carrie Jones was most disagreeable. The scene she created might have developed into something serious. However, the Court prefers not to place an interpretation upon what she attempted to do. The Court will go ~~far~~--warning Carrie Jones, of course, not to repeat her actions of yesterday--as to over-look the matter. Unless the Prisoner, Dr. John Beck, wishes to prefer charges against Carrie Jones, the Court will consider the matter closed.

(Collings and Mr. Beck whisper together for a few seconds. Then Collings rises to address the Court.)

COLLINGS

(Standing at his table)

If it please the Court, Mr. Beck does not wish to bring any charges against Miss Jones.

(He sits down.)

JUDGE ARCHER

Now, Mr. Madison, you may begin your examination of the witness.

(U4)

MADISON

Before I do so, Miss Jones has asked me to express her apology to the Court for her yesterday's conduct. On my own behalf, I should like to add, that Miss Jones was so overcome with grief because of her great loss that she was temporarily without knowledge of her behavior. However, this morning--

(He smiles at Carrie)

--she

is quite fit.

(Judge Archer bows)

(Madison turns to the witness)

You stated yesterday, Miss Jones, that Amanda Beck was your twin-sister, didn't you?

CARRIE JONES

Yes, sir. Amanda wuz my twin-sister.

MADISON

And did you and Amanda look alike?

CARRIE JONES

Yes sir. We looked des alike.

MADISON

Was there any way, at all, of telling you apart?

CARRIE JONES

Of course, dere wuz folks dat could jess tell us from one-nuther. Dat wuz because dey knowed us well. Den Amanda--she had a lil' bitty mole on her right ear dat An ain't got. Ef yuh seed dat yuh could tell us apart.

MADISON

(Smiling)

Providing you knew which one of you possessed th' mole!

CARRIE JONES

(Chuckling)

Dat point did git folks mixed up a heap!

MADISON

I see. Well, did Dr. Beck know you apart?

CARRIE JONES

(Sourly)

Oh yeah. He could tell us apart.

MADISON

Where were you and your sister born, Miss Jones?

CARRIE JONES

We wuz born in Suffolk, Virginia. It ain't far from Norfolk.

MADISON

What manner of work did your people do?

CARRIE JONES

~~Depend on de season.~~ My family wuz all farmers. And we worked some land for a white man named Captain Wade Slocum.

MADISON

When you were tenant-farmers? Commonly called share-croppers?

CARRIE JONES

(Grinning)

You know all 'bout dat, don't you? Yaas suh we wuz share-croppers.

MADISON

And did you invent your now-famous hair-dressing while you were farmers?

CARRIE JONES

Yes sir!

MADISON

Tell us how you came to do this.

CARRIE JONES

Tell my parents never had no girl children 'cepting me and Amania. The rest of the children wuz boys. We had four brothers.

MADISON

I see. Go on.

CARRIE JONES

Well, Mr. Madison, cullud folks has a lot of trouble.

(Chuckling)

*And Lawd!* I mean trouble! ~~And Lawd!~~ But dey has no' trouble wid dey

hair than wid anything else. If dey <sup>kink</sup> git dey hair straightened out! -- dey kink ~~it~~ of put up wid things. And look like my sister, ~~Amelia~~ <sup>Amanda</sup> had no' trouble wid our hair than all in' other cullud folks put together.

MADISON

(Smiling)

And what did you do about it?

CARRIE JONES

(Laughs out loud)

We had to do <sup>it</sup> powerful suffering before we got good results.

COLLINGS

(Springing angrily to his feet)

I object! The District Attorney is deliberately putting this witness on exhibition for no good reason! This testimony is irrelevant and immaterial.

(Stammers)

It's--

it's--ut--utterly disgraceful!

JUDGE ARCHER

(Somewhat sternly)

The Court feels, somehow, that there is a place in this trial for the testimony the witness is now giving. Objection over-ruled.

CARRIE JONES

(Turns head toward Judge Archer;

speaks to him confidentially)

Don' pay him no mind, Judge.

(Turns toward Collings, leans forward

in chair placing both hands on hips,

and glares at him. Speaks vehemently)

'Cause he ain't doin' a thing now but standin' right flat in the middle of the floor, beatin' up his gums for nothin'!

(Collings flops in his chair as

Madison laughs out loud.)

MADISON

(When laughter quiets.)

You said you had to suffer, Miss Jones, before you got good results. What did you mean?

CARRIE JONES

Our hair wuz kinky. And it wuz short. Combs! -- didn't last long on dat grass! Den we tried mixin' up grease and rubbin' it in th' hair and scalp.

(Chuckles.)

One

time we got up a mixture we tried on Amanda first.

JERIE JONES (Cont'd)

Lawd --even thing come out and off....but amma's eard. n. dey hang loose for 'bout a month.

MADISON

(Chuckling.)

I say you did suffer. and then you hit it on the right grease?

CARRIE JONES

Not long after dat accident, a cooked a. th' first stuff.

MADISON

How did you go about commercializing your product?

CARRIE JONES.

Well, Mr. Madison, in den days, and eve. now-a-days, I tell you in the South, ch... folks worked for sugar and corn 'til fall down 'till night. 't come 'and vi--even 'o' 't f... church. Well after me and Manda got our hair-grease jess right, we come hence to work in church Sunday mornings looking jess too nice for woris--'round the meal. Den the other women folks started to notice. At first dey tried making fun of us. Den dey wanted dere hair to look the same way. Night den and dere me and Manda come outen the fields!

MADISON

after you were successful in the South, did you go to New York?

CARRIE JONES

Yes. when all the cullid folks commenced to move to New York by the car-load, we come along, too and started a business in New York.

MADISON

Was it there, in New York, that you decided to box your product and place it on the market to be used by individual consumers?

CARRIE JONES

Yes sir. But first we had to have some steel combs made. You see you applies th' grease to th' hair and combs it in wid a hot comb.

MADISON

And then you set up a beauty-parlor for colored women on Seventh Avenue--one of the first of its kind?

CARRIE JONES

(Proudly)

Th' very first! We had our grease and combs patented too!

(Leaning forward)

'Cause dey is thieves in its world! Yaas mah Lawd!

MADISON

And is it true that your New York beauty-parlor was so crowded that you had to enlarge the establishment, and train new helpers and assistants?



Yes sir. And after we made good in Harlem we branched out to other cities.

MADISON

Was it about this time that you met John Beck?

CARRIE JONES

Yes sir.

MADISON

Tell us about that!

CARRIE JONES

Tell me an. Amanda had about three-quarters of a million invested in our business by then. ~~She was then-  
being paid for the time. Amanda was handling a good  
deal of the business and I was teaching in our hair-  
dressing school.~~ We needed a agent to go out on th' road wid our product--'cause we had establishments in more than fifty cities and towns. Amanda hit on th' idea dat connected us wid John Beck.

MADISON

What was this idea?

CARRIE JONES

Well dis wuz a woman's business. Th' customer's and operators wuz all wemen. and mostly dey wuz cullid wemen wid what we call "hot hair". It wuz ~~Frank's~~ idea dat a man agent would help th' business more dan a woman agent.

MADISON

Did you agree?

CARRIE JONES

She! Man dat's business!

(Suddenly she turns sour)

But I didn't want no lil' ol' pinch back rigger!

COLLINGS

(Springing to his feet)

I object to the term the witness is using!

JUDGE ARCHER

The witness will ~~define the term she just used.~~  
~~She will do so in~~ conventional language. And the sten-  
ographer will strike the objectionable term from the record.

(Collings sits down.)

CARRIE JONES

Maybe I hadn't ought to have said dat! I 'pologize. I meant it wuz poor. We needed for th' 'stion. And not no cut-lockin' light-skin boy. We 'verified for an educated colored man dat wuz young. John Beck come in answer to our 'nd Amanda 'n Jess had to have him work for us.

MADISON

Did John Beck do his work well?

CARRIE JONES

I got to hand him dat. ~~He started him off with a~~  
~~only two dollars a week and some money he gave~~  
~~me with him. And he was light on the expense. But~~  
I know. Amanda was feel'ng ready for him--from th' start.

(sadly)

When John Beck wuz around!--dat po' woman couldn't do a thing but part her big mouf and grin!

MADISON

Did your sister pay his expenses in school, when Jon Beck returned to school?

CARRIE JONES

Yes sir.

MADISON

~~What was the reason for this?~~  
*Because she wanted to marry him?*

CARRIE JONES

She woulda done anything to git him. We had about two million den. So he wuzn't hard to git!

COLLINGS

(up)

Objection! The witness is using conjecture!

CARRIE JONES

(Angrily)

I'm telling the truth!

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection sustained. The stenographer will strike out: "We had two million then. So he wuzn't so hard to get".

MADISON

Through out the years, did you and your twin-sister look alike?

CARRIE JONES

(As tears come to her eyes)

Till the day Amanda died!--folks couldn't hardly tell us apart.

MADISON

her skin  
Was the color of your skin?

CHARLIE JONES

Yes, sir.

JONES

weight approximately the same as yours?

CARLIE JONES

There was about five pounds difference in our <sup>weights</sup> weights. I forgets which one of us was the heaviest.

MADISON

I see. Now, Miss Jones: during the married life of John Beck and your sister did you live in the same house with them?

CARLIE JONES

Yes, sir.

MADISON

When John Beck had graduated from medical and had served his internship, did he have any money he could call his own?

COLLINGS

Objection! The question constitutes conjecture.

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection over-ruled. Witness may answer the question.

CARLIE JONES

John didn't have no money 'ceptin' what Amanda give him.

MADISON

After his marriage to Amanda, did John Beck continue to depend on your sister for money?

CARLIE JONES

No. He was a good doctor and had a big practice that paid him well. In these last few years he been paying all the taxes and the house expenses. We never had no trouble 'round the house 'bout that sort of thing.

MADISON

\* ...your sister was a very rich woman, wasn't it  
 was worth several millions, while John  
 was just doin', rather well as a physician?

CARRIE JONES

Yes, sir: Amanda was rich. John...well, he had  
 a few thousand, I guess.

MADISON

To your knowledge, did John Beck ever show any  
 sign of affection for his wife?

CARRIE JONES

No.

MADISON

To your knowledge, did she love him?

CARRIE JONES

Yes. She told me she was crazy about him.

MADISON

...live together as man and wife.

COLLINGS

Objection! The question is conjecture.

CARRIE JONES

(To J.) He all time usin' dat word...conjecture!  
 I don't know what it means: but I do know what  
 went on between Amanda and John Beck!

JUDGE ALCORN

The word means to guess at. But the objection, in  
 view of what you have just said, is over-ruled.  
 You may answer the question.

CARRIE JONES

Alright den; live an' learn. I'm learnin' things.  
 Well Amanda, as far as John Beck was concerned, was  
 just as much a virgin the day she died as the day  
 she first laid eyes on him.

MADISON

Why didn't John Beck love Amanda, Miss Jones?

COLLINGS

(Rising from seat)

Objection. And this is conjecture!

JUDGE ARCHER

Over-ruled.

COLLINGS

But if it please the Court!

(Gestures with hands)

Oh well! Exception!

JUDGE ARCHER

You may answer the question, Miss Jones.

CARRIE JONES

John didn't love Amanda because she wuz black, because she wuz ugly, and because culled men of his type ain't got no use for women of ~~her race~~ *my - I mean hasty j.c.*

MADISON

Would you say that John Beck was a normal man, Miss Jones? I mean if a woman did appeal to him, would he be very likely to make love to her?

CARRIE JONES

He's ~~a~~ normal ~~man~~ allright. And ten like him always manages to git women.

MADISON

Did Dr. Beck have many white patients, Miss Jones?

CARRIE JONES

Yes sir.

(Collings gets to his feet again; he walks to witness-stand, close)

MADISON

Did he ever have many white women as patients?

CARRIE JONES

A few.

MADISON

(He pauses. Rubs his chin. He turns and looks at Collings. Then he looks back at Fisks)

What about this manuscript, Miss Jones?

(Holds out manuscript)

Have you

ever seen it before?

CARRIE JONES

Yes. John and that fellow, Oscar Brooks used to work on it at the house.

MADISON

Do you know what it advocates?

11  
CARRIE JONES

I got a good idea what's in it. I heard John  
talkin' about it to some people several times.

MADISON

Then with that in mind, and the fact that John  
Beck did not care for Aranda Beck because she was

I think "color struck" is an expression used by  
Negroes to denote colored people who show a marked  
preference for light skin.

CARRIE JONES

(Manning toward BECK.)  
Oh, he's "color struck" alright!

MADISON

Would you say that the fairer a woman's skin, the  
more likely Dr. Beck was to be charmed by her?

CARRIE JONES

Perhaps.

MA

brown woman?

CARRIE JONES

to go.....

COLLINGS

ing a manner of material in this trial to stir up  
prejudice and hatred. I ask that the case be called  
a mistrial, since Mr. Madison is injecting his own  
personal feelings into the trial.

MADISON

of the American race.....

COLLINGS

I object!

a murderer; but if this book  
is published there is no .....

is a plot;  
the plot is to kill the Negro.....  
the plot is to kill the Negro.....

D.R. BECK

I did not advocate the thing which Mr. Madison is hinting at, Your Honor! (As D.R. to front of Mr. Beck)

challenge my freedom of speech? It's what Negroes need more than anything else in the world!

COLLINGS

(To BE. as BE. Xs back and sits) (S. Ut-X-L.)

The Bar Association shall certainly hear about this from me!

JUDGE ARCHER

(Now is until room is absolutely quiet)

Mr. Collings will please take his seat. (CO. Sit)

Mr. Madison will please do likewise. (MA. Sit)

This Court does not presume to set itself up as an oracle. That is not the function of a judge. The sole purpose of a judge is to see that a person is tried honestly and fairly; to interpret the law when occasion demands; and to maintain order during trial.

This Judge resents the statement of Mr. Collings that his client will not receive a fair trial; for that client shall have a fair trial.

But in maintaining order this Court is at odds. He is not at odds in restraining noise and misbehavior, for that may be accomplished through penalty and through punishment. But he is at odds

human passions, traditions and dogma. Since the Court is human, he, too, is exposed to these things.

with as little passion as possible; even in the inclined to suggest that ~~the prisoner~~

h tradition and dogma. Too much Court itself on trial. And this

into the circumstances must not make it so: neither in this courtroom, nor in others throughout this great nation. Thus, the Court is inclined to look with favor upon Dr. Beck's plea for freedom of at the same time, the Court warns

warns Mr. Madison

whose duty it is to exploit the mechanics of their colored is but an accident of birth which should not be the concern of this Court.

Further on, they state their profession and their client of course for the purpose of the case. They state that they have been in the service of the State for some time. They state that they will see to the affairs of his client.

(Pauses.)

The stenographer will read the statement of the witness.

STENOGRAPHER

and of course he would like a white woman like that. (Pause)

MADISON

When Carrie hesitates and twists about and answers Miss. Jones.

CARRIE JONES

I--I dont know.

MADISON

If the Court please, the State now offers this MS. in evidence that Dr. Beck was opposed to a marriage of a light skin Negro leader of Negroes with a black Negroess, and that this contributed to a motive for murder.

COLLINGS

Objection. Mr. Madison should have placed that MS. in evidence, yesterday.

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection over-ruled. The Clerk will mark the MS. exhibit B for the State.

MADISON

And now, Miss Jones, do you know anything about Dr. Beck's office hours?

CARRIE JONES

I know all 'bout his office hours.

MADISON

Did he keep office hours on Wednesdays?

CARRIE JONES

No.

MADISON

What did he do?

Carrie Jones

He went out for entertainment sometimes to ball games, theatres and places like that. Sometimes he went visiting. Then on some Wednesday nights he went to medical meetings.

MADISON

Did he ever take his wife with him?



13

2 4 7

"ADISON

"ADISON

AD, SO<sub>2</sub>.AD, SO<sub>2</sub>.

MAZ: SOR

MAZ: SOR

CARRIE JONES A

CARRIE JONES A

CARRIE JONES

a no servant.

CARTER JONES

CARTER JONES



*Collings* (Turns from his table to the witness-stand)

(For a second or two Collings stabs before witness-stand contemplating Carrie. There is a hostile determination in his face and posture. As Collings stands thus, Carrie's attitude slowly turns from the passive to active hostility. The expression on her face shows that she is ready for battle.)

COLLINGS

Miss Jones,--

(His voice becomes icy)

--when you and the late Mrs. Beck were girls why were you so anxious to straighten your kinky hair?

CARRIE JONES

(She shows her surprise at this question by a start)

It wuz jess natural for us to want to do dat!

COLLINGS

(Smiling)

I see. It was natural. And you were willing to suffer in order to straighten your kinky, nappy hair?

CARRIE JONES

I said we suffered!

(She begins to show anger.)

COLLINGS

And after burning your hair an scalp with your various compounds of grease, which one of you, yourself or your sister, which one of you was directly responsible for the compound which finally made you both rich?

CARRIE JONES

I wuz the one dat cooked it up!

COLLINGS

(Smiling)

I see. You were the chemist. And which one of you was responsible for the commercial exploitation of your product?

CARRIE JONES

(Hesitating for a moment)

Amanda wuz.

COLLINGS

Then Amanda took care of the business end? She had the business brains?

CARRIE JONES

I guess dat's right.

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ACT TWO

COLLINGS

And all of the patent rights and copyrights  
were taken out in her name, weren't they?

CARRIE JONES

Yes.

COLLINGS

(he nods his head reflectively)

Now Miss Jones, on several occasions in the past,  
you have been heard to express a dislike for Negroes  
of light skin. Why?

CARRIE JONES

(With venom)

When-ever you see a Negro dat's too light--yuh  
kin bet yo' last n'ckle hat some of his people ~~was~~ *was* in  
the bed wid white folks, an' didn't have no marriage  
license to do it! *(he says Court)*

COLLINGS

And still you wanted your hair to look like white  
people's hair?

CARRIE JONES

(Leaning forward)

Lemme tell yuh som'pen! 'owen, white, black,  
green or red, ain't never satisfied wid dey hair no  
matter how it look--an' dey always does som'pen  
'bout it!

COLLINGS

(Little taken back)

True.

(Carrie chuckles at him maliciously)

Is it not so, Miss Jones, that your sister's will  
leaves you her part of the business?

CARRIE JONES

Yes. That's so.

COLLINGS

Lets go back to color!

(He smiles) About five years ago you  
went to Vienna, didn't you?

CARRIE JONES

Dat's right!

COLLINGS

And you went to see a Dr. Metzglad, didn't you?

CARRIE JONES

(Angrily)

I seen lots o' people in Vienna! 'Mong dem wuz  
Dr. Metzglad.

COLLINGS

But you hear, hasn't you, that Dr. Metzglad had invented a skin bleach cream? and you wanted to buy it? hasn't you heard that Dr. Metzglad had changed the color of Africans from black to white?

CARRIE JONES

He wouldn't sell me his old bleaching cream! If cat'll do yuh any good. He wuz a fool! I offered him a million dollars for it!

COLLINGS

What did you intend to do with that cream? Use it yourself or peddle it to black Americans? Or both?

CARRIE JONES

(Shouting)

That's my business!

COLLINGS

Allright! That's your business. But you did ask Dr. Metzglad to use the cream on you, didn't you?

CARRIE JONES

What if I did?

COLLINGS

Well--since you're asking the question--I was thinking it rather inconsistent to hate Negroes with light skin and still be willing to pay a fabulous price to lighten your own skin.

MADISON

If it please the Court! Mr. Collings' methods of cross-examination are growing irrelevant. I object.

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection sustained. (MADISON)

COLLINGS

(He turns toward Judge Archer and bows. Then he turns back to the witness.)

Miss Jones did you ever quarrel with your sister?

MADISON

Objection. The question is immaterial!

JUDGE ARCHER

What is Mr. Collings' reason for asking that question?

COLLINGS

(Turns toward Judge Archer)

This witness benefitted by Amanda Beck's death to the extent of several millions of dollars. And it is known that she did quarrel with her sister over business matters.

MADISON

If Mr. Collins is questioning that Carrie Jones killed her own twin sister--he is making a mistake. Police records show the records of the state, may come out that's even too far away at the time Amanda Beck was murdered to have killed her.

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection sustained.

COLLINGS

(Angrily)

No more questions.

MADISON

(As Carrie Jones is about to leave the stand)  
One moment, Miss Jones.

(He rises from his chair and stands by his table as Carrie resumes her seat)

Where were you when your sister was killed?

CARRIE JONES

I wuz in Washington D.C. visiting my brother and his wife. My brother, the only person I got left in my family, was sick. He's still sick.

MADISON

When did you go to Washington?

CARRIE JONES

The Monday before Amanda got k'iled.

MADISON

When did you hear of her death?

CARRIE JONES

I had been out shopping most of dat day, buyin' things for my brother's kids. Not long after I come in dat day I got a telegram from John Beck. It said Amanda wuz dead and for me to come home.

MADISON

(Reaching down, he picks up a piece of yellow paper. With this in his hand he walks to witness-stand)

According to the blank, Miss Jones you signed for the telegram Mr. Beck sent you yourself.

(Hands her paper)

Is this  
your handwriting?

CARRIE JONES.

Yes.

(she hands paper back to Madison)

MADISON

That's all Miss Jones..

(He turns and smiles slyly  
at Collings as Carrie walks  
off Right to Spectator's bench)  
The State's next witness is Lenore Hopkins.  
(Collings walks back to his table  
and sits down)

## COURT CLERK

Lenore Hopkins, to stand! Lenore Hopkins take  
the witness stand!

(A pretty girl leaves spectator's  
bench and walks Left toward witness-  
stand. She is the same yellow girl  
who stood at the railing behind Dr.  
Beck at the close of Act One. She  
is smartly dressed and wears a  
"swagger coat" which is draped about  
her loosely. Her face is a bit drawn  
as though she might be slightly ill.  
She walks to the Clerk and places  
hand on Bible)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole  
truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

ELENORE HOPKINS

I do.

(She sits in witness-chair)

MADISON

(Turning to Judge Archer)

If it please the Court, Miss Hopkins is a hostile  
witness. She appears ~~as a witness~~ for the State only  
after being served with a subpoena. She tries in every  
imaginable way to avoid being served with that  
subpoena. ~~She may seek to perjure herself while on~~  
~~the stand, and~~ I have reason to believe that she will  
avoid direct answers to the questions asked her.

JUDGE ARCHER

(Turning to witness-stand)

The witness will give direct answers to questions.  
We must remember that she is under oath; therefore she  
must tell the truth. If the witness ~~is~~ commits perjury,  
~~as the district attorney suggests she might~~, she will  
be punished under the statutes which deal with that  
offense. Now, Mr. Madison, you will please examine the  
witness.

MADISON

(He walks to a point near his  
table and there faces the witness)  
Miss Hopkins, are you white or colored?

ELENORE HOPKINS

I am colored.

MADISON

(Smiles and takes one step forward)

But you are more white than colored, aren't you?

COLLINGS

(From his seat)

Don't answer that question. Objection.

MADISON

Allright. I'll withdraw the question in that form. Miss Hopkins, don't you look more like a white person than you do a colored person?

COLLINGS

(Springing to his feet)

Objection! We are not interested in looks!

MADISON

Your honor! We are interested in looks. The State contends that Dr. Beck committed murder because he preferred the looks of this woman to those of Maanda. The State contends that this woman knows that!

JUDGE ARCHER

(He hesitates for a second)

I shall allow that question.

(Collings sits down)

MADISON

Now answer the question, Miss Hopkins!

ELENORE HOPKINS

I suppose I do look more like a white person than I do a colored person.

(She leans forward a bit as if in sudden pain. With a noticeable effort, she recovers her composure)

MADISON

Then, isn't that why Dr. Beck was in love with you?

(She lowers her head. Then raises it.

She appears to be searching for an answer.)

Dr. Beck was in love with you, wasn't he? And he still is, isn't he?

ELENORE HOPKINS

I suppose Dr. Beck was--was--was--very much interested in me.

MADISON

(He laughs and takes a step forward)

Thank you, Miss Hopkins. I shall take that as the correct answer!

(He turns and looks at Dr. Beck)

Perhaps Dr. Beck will agree with me that that was the correct answer.

(He turns back to witness)



1  
MADISON (cont'd) ACT TWO

Why was Dr. Beck, as you put it, very much interested in you?

ELENORE HOPKINS .

I'm afraid I can't give a correct answer to that question.

MADISON

No?...Well why wasn't Dr. Beck very much interested in his wife?

ELENORE HOPKINS

I don't know that he wasn't very much interested in his wife!

(Again she droops, but recovers)

MADISON

(Is much amused by this; he laughs)

Now, Miss Hopkins, you just testified that you look more like a white person than a colored person. Isn't that the reason why Dr. Beck is very much interested in you?

ELENORE HOPKINS

(She hesitates, looks around as if she is embarrassed)

That may account for some of his interest in me.

MADISON

(Moves in close to witness-stand)

Then he was interested in you because you were nearly white! But if you had been all white he would have loved you!

ELENORE HOPKINS

That isn't true! He doesn't love me because of my skin!

MADISON

Then he does love you?!

ELENORE HOPKINS

Allright! He does love me!

(She looks at Dr. Beck. There is a deep appeal in her eyes.)

MADISON

But if you were white, he'd love you more?!

J.P.

ELENORE HOPKINS

That's a lie! What you're saying has nothing to do with the degree of love ~~he has for me~~ how much he loves me!

MADISON

(quietly)

Of course, you realize, Miss Hopkins, that you are as much responsible for Amanda Beck's murder as Dr. Beck is.

COLLINGS  
(Jumping to his feet)  
Objection!

Sustained. (C...  
JUDGE ARCHER

MADISON  
(Turns and gives Collings a  
slight bow.)  
(Collings advances toward the  
witness-stand)  
Where were you on July 1st. Miss Hopkins?

ELENORE HOPKINS  
I was--

MADISON  
(Interrupting)  
Never mind. The State knows that you were with a  
patient of Dr. Beck's all of that day--an isolation  
case--at the patient's ~~home~~ *home*.  
(Elenore droops again. This time  
she looks very ill.)  
Aren't you well, Miss Hopkins?

ELENORE HOPKINS  
No. I don't feel very well. (C... up)

MADISON  
(He sneers at her.)  
Just what, Miss Hopkins, is the nature of your  
illness?

ELENORE HOPKINS  
(A bit start led)  
I don't know. I just don't feel well?

MADISON  
(Giving her a cruel laugh)  
Well aren't you a registered nurse? And haven't you  
been working for an illustrious physician--Dr. Beck?  
ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes. I'm a registered nurse. But I ~~need not know~~ *how to know*  
what's the matter with me!

MADISON  
I should think that a woman in fornic--  
in your condition would know what was the matter with  
her! (Pause)

(She tries to look at him and can't.  
She lowers her eyes.)

(S...  
COLLINGS  
(Suddenly)

If the Court please, Miss Hopkins appears to be very  
ill. I suggest that she be excused.

MADISON

(Angrily)

I will not be excused! and may I remind you Mr. Collings that this is the State's witness!

(He smiles. His voice grows quiet.)

However, it might be wise to have a physician ~~examine her~~ *examine her thoroughly. But not Dr. Beck.*

(wo)

ELENORE HOPKINS

No!.....I'll be allright!

MADISON

How easily you recover, Miss Hopkins! Now perhaps you ~~know~~ know what causes these "lizzy spells of yours"

(She remains silent. She avoids looking at Madison)

Well?...Then I'll diagnose your ailment. It's as old as time!...You're going to have a baby! Isn't that true?

COLLINGS

Objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

I'm afraid I'll have to allow that question. The witness will please answer,

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes. I'm going to have a baby.

MADISON

Are you married?

ELENORE HOPKINS

No.

MADISON

Who is the child's father?

COLLINGS

Objection.

MADISON

Never mind answering the question in that form. I'll put it another way. Is Dr. Beck the father of your unborn baby?

COLLINGS

Objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection over-ruled.

MADISON

Answer the question Miss Hopkins!

ELENORE HOPKINS

(It is only with an effort that she keeps herself from fainting)

Yes. Dr. Beck is the child's father.

(COLLINGS Xs to table. Speaks earnestly to BECK)

MADISON

How long have you been pregnant, Miss Hopkins?

ELENORE HOPKINS

A little over three months. (Pause) May I have a glass of water?

Xs

(JUDGE nods to CLERK, who to JUDGE'S chambers U.L., and returns with tray and two glasses of water. CLERK places tray on desk, and brings glass to ELENORE)

COLLINGS

(Up)

If it please the Court. My client, Dr. Beck, wishes to make a request of the Court.

JUDGE ARCHER

Yes, Mr. Collings.

COLLINGS

Of course the Court is aware that Dr. Beck is in jail, and has no chance of procuring bail since he is charged with first degree murder. Dr. Beck requests that the Court procure a special marriage license immediately so that he and Miss Hopkins may be married at the end of this session.

MADISON

(Xing L. to bench)

I object to their marrying now. The State may need Miss Hopkins to testify again. If she becomes Dr. Beck's wife, that may become impossible.

JUDGE ARCHER

The witness has been sworn in as Elenore Hopkins. That status shall stand during this trial.

MADISON

But in the event of an appeal...?

JUDGE ARCHER

Then you will have the record of Miss Hopkins' present testimony. The Court must uphold the lawful conventions of society first. Therefore, the Court grants Dr. Beck's request. (Starts writing note - then stops)

I presume Miss Hopkins is a willing party to this proposal? (When Elenore nods her head, he finishes writing note; beckons to Court Attendant who takes note out through Judge's chambers.)

Now, Mr. Madison you may continue your examination of the witness.

~~He looks at the witness and says to the witness, "You are a witness to this."~~

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MADISON

(As he walks toward his table)

I am sorry that I shall have to be clinical from now on, Miss Hopkins. But it is absolutely necessary.

(He picks up some papers at his table)

But was your pregnancy a premeditated thing?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Dr. Beck wanted me to have a baby--if that's what you mean?

MADISON

That's exactly what I mean.

(As he walks back toward the witness stand)

*But* you know he didn't want children by his late wife?

ELENORE HOPKINS

(She looks ill again)

Yes. I knew that.

MADISON

(At edge of witness-stand)

What salary for your services as a nurse did Dr. Beck pay you?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Thirty-five dollars a week.

MADISON

Do you have a bank account?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes.

MADISON

Is it true that your bank account totals fifteen thousand dollars?

ELENORE HOPKINS

About that.

MADISON

ing your own living?

ELEPHANT OPENS

About eight years.

MADISON

During that time what have been your average weekly earnings?

ELEPHANT OPENS

Between twenty dollars a week and thirty-five dollars a week.

MADISON

And you were able to save fifteen thousand dollars out of that?

ELEPHANT OPENS

Not exactly.....

MADISON

Miss Hopkins, I could stand here, and by round about methods draw the facts of how you happen to have a \$15,000 bank account. But I desire to save the Court's time. So will you please just simply tell us the facts yourself?

When

*I disowned him as much as I could, and I said, no, it best to give me money I can use at home.*

MADISON

In other words, he was paying you for your extra services.

*He was paying me. It wasn't like that. We were in love. I began to see things his way after a while, and might happen to him, so he wanted to make that I'd be taken care of.*

MADISON

Did he say he thought he might be arrested for murder?

ELEPHANT OPENS

*It was his way of being considerate.*

MADISON

Did you know that Mrs. Beck a divorcee?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes.

MADISON

So you were willing to have Dr. Beck's bastard child--for a price?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Not for a price!

(She screams at him)

And don't call <sup>my</sup> the baby a bastard!

MADISON

You say Dr. Beck was really in love with you?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes. He loves me!

MADISON

You were willing to have a baby by him?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes.

(The Court Attendant comes out of Judge's chambers and goes to Judge Archer. The he walks Right to swinging-gate.)

MADISON

All the time, however, you wanted your baby to be legitimate, didn't you?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes.

MADISON

Did you tell Dr. Beck that?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes. I told him that.

MADISON

Did you tell him that after you knew you were going to have a baby?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes. I told him that I wished that the baby could have his name.

MADISON

(Heis his head, and smiles knowingly)  
And both of you knew Amanda Beck wouldn't <sup>not</sup> divorce him!

(He swings around to face Collings.)  
Your witness, Mr. Collings.

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JUDGE ARMER

(As Collings walks to witness-stand)

The Court is now in court and will hear the case in a license bureau, Dr. Collings. The Court will issue a special license over here immediately.

COLLINGS

We are indeed grateful for the Court's kind consideration. Thank you very much.

(He turns to Elenore)

You stated, Miss Hopkins, that you were willing to have a baby for Dr. Beck. I am sure you will.

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes.

COLLINGS

Did you ever ask him to compensate you for what you were doing?

ELENORE HOPKINS

No. I never ask him for money or anything else.

COLLINGS

Did Dr. Beck suggest that you allow him to increase your bank account?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes.

COLLINGS

And did you at first refuse to let him do this?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes. But he insisted.

COLLINGS

Did Dr. Beck give you any reason for his insisting that you take money?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Yes. He said that he wanted to make sure that I was provided for. And of course he wanted to provide for the baby.

COLLINGS

Did he make any other provisions for you and the baby?

ELENORE HOPKINS

(She looks at Dr. Beck and smiles)

Yes. He bought a small house in a little New Jersey village--not too faraway from New York. When--when time came for me to have the child, I was to go there and live.



COLLINGS

Did you know that what you were doing would in a measure cut you off from society--your friends and the usual life you were living?

ELENORE HOPKINS

(She begins to look ill again)

Yes. But I didn't mind that. Dr. Beck and I hoped to really live together some day. We looked forward to marriage some day.

COLLINGS

I see...Did either of you ever talk to the other about harmin' Mrs. Beck--that is: physically?

ELENORE HOPKINS

No. Never! Dr. Beck told me all that Mrs. Beck had done for him. He was very very grateful to her. He didn't want to hurt her in any way. But he did hope to convince her to divorce him.

COLLINGS

That's all Miss Hopkins. 1)

MADISON

(Walks close to witness-stand)

(Collings returns to his table)

One moment, Miss Hopkins.

ELENORE HOPKINS

(Rocking back-and-forth in chair.)

Do I have to answer more questions. I'm so tired!"

MADISON

(For a moment he looks sympathetic)

I know you're tired. But this is my job. And I have to do my duty.

(She nods her head and tries to smile at him)

You said, didn't you, that after you were pregnant you told Dr. Beck that you wished the baby could have his name?

ELENORE HOPKINS

(As Madison turns and walks toward his table)

Yes. I said that.

MADISON

(Swinging about just before he reaches his table)

Did you hear that you wanted the baby to have his name, legally, as soon as the child was born?

ELENORE HOPKINS

Naturally!

MADISON

I see. Naturally you wanted your baby to be legitimate. Naturally you did! That's all, Miss. Hopkins.

(He turns and crosses to his table where he whispers to Fields.)

(ELENORE rises from chair but sinks back. COLLINGS quickly crosses to her and assists her down from witness stand. She gestures toward the third chair at the Defense table.)

COLLINGS

(Glancing at Judge Archer.)

May I seat her at the Defense table your....

(JUDGE ARCHER nods his head.)

(ELENORE sits in chair opposit DR. BECK. BECK takes her hand in hers as she lowers head on table before her.)

MADISON

(Whirling suddenly to face Judge Archer.)  
Your honor! The State rests!

COLLINGS

I move that this case be dismissed for lack of evidence

MADISON and FIELDS

(Shouting.)

Objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

(Calmly.)

Motion denied.

## COLLINGS

Exception!

(He pauses for several seconds. Then he faces the audience.  
Then the Court.)

May it please the Court. Gentlemen of the Jury. This case which the State, like and old fashioned witch-doctor, has conjured up against Dr. Beck, seems, in my humble opinion, to be far fetched and utterly insane. Certainly it is built on malice and circumstance. And of course the police and the District Attorney have ignored the real why and how of Amanda Beck's death. Because to find the real murderer might cause them some little difficulty. They have introduced ridiculous motives for which they say Dr. Beck killed Amanda Beck. And have avoided, as best they could, the true motives for--

## MADISON

(Rising and grinning)

If the Court please! Is Mr. ~~Madison~~ making his opening address or is he summing up? <sup>Collings</sup>

(Fields laughs.)

(Judge Archer nods to Collings to continue)

## COLLINGS

If the Court please. Gentlemen of the Jury. The defense will introduce testimony which will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Dr. Beck ~~is~~ is innocent of murder. We will introduce witnesses who will paint a different picture of John Beck's character. And we shall show that there were others who could have killed Amanda Beck--malicious individuals who sent her to her death because she was the instrument through which they hoped to trap and hang John Beck. The first witness for the Defense is a witness whom the State ~~has called~~ ~~has not~~ who has been unable up to this moment to tell John Beck's real story. The Defense calls Dr. Sims to the stand.

## COURT CLERK

Dr. Sims to the stand. Dr. Sims take the witness stand.

(Dr. Sims once more comes from Right to Left)

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

DR. SIMS

I do

(He sits in chair)

## COLLINGS

Dr. Sims you have already told us that you are the Dean of the Medical School which John Beck attended. And you have said that you know something about his life previous to his entering medical school. Can you tell us whether or not John Beck was a good student while he was in the undergraduate department of the University?

DR. SIMS

He was an excellent student.

COLLINGS

The scholarship you mentioned? Did it last the four years he was in college?

DR. SIMS

Dr. Beck was able to renew the scholarship every year during his college career.

COLLINGS

And when he graduated from college did he immediately enter medical school.

DR. SIMS

No.

COLLINGS

Why not?

DR. SIMS

He didn't have the money.

COLLINGS

What did he do to get the money?

DR. SIMS

He stayed out of school and worked for a year.

COLLINGS

He worked. Just what did he do?

DR. SIMS

He did any kind of "colored job" he could get.

COLLINGS

What do you mean by "colored job"?

DR. SIMS

Well a white person with a college education is usually able to get a position befitting his mentality--that is: some kind of high class white collar work. But a Negro with the same educational background has to take a "colored job"--if he wants to live. That is: he has to become a chauffeur, a porter, a red-cap, an elevator operator and the like. As a matter of fact seventy-five percent of the colored men who win their college degrees pay for them with that kind of labor. Seldom does a Negro leave professional school without working at such a job part time.

COLLINGS

And John Beck had to take such a job so that he could enter medical school?

DR. SIMS

Yes. And while he was in medical school that first year he <sup>often</sup> went hungry ~~every day~~ just ~~the way~~ <sup>as</sup> a Negro boy is doing right this minute. John Beck wanted to practice medicine, Mr. Collings!

COLLINGS

And is he a good physician?

DR. SIMS

One of the best!

COLLINGS

After John Beck finished his course in medicine, Dr. Sims, did you keep in touch with him?

DR. SIMS

Yes.

COLLINGS

Why?

DR. SIMS

John Beck was probably the ~~best~~ <sup>most brilliant</sup> student to ever pass through our medical school. I have always cherished the hope that some day he would return to the University and teach medicine. But John Beck prefers to ~~practise~~ <sup>practise</sup> among his own people in Harlem.

COLLINGS

~~Dean~~ Sims--would Dr. Beck do anything--anything at all--to harm a patient of his?

MADISON

(up)

Objection! Witness isn't in position to answer that question!

DR. SIMS

(Turning quickly toward Judge Archer)

If the court please! I am in a position to answer that question! I was John Beck's teacher! And through the years I have been his friend. I have been in close touch with him professionally ever since he graduated from medical school. He has discussed his ideas and theories with me. He came to me for advice on numerous occasions while he and Mr. Brooks were writing their book....Your honor--I know John Beck.

JUDGE ARCHER

I shall allow that question. (sits)

DR. SIMS

Thank you. John Beck's main objective in life is to cure and to heal people--all people! He would never--under any circumstances--do anything to harm any patient.

COLLINGS

Thank you, Dr. Sims. Your witness, Mr. Madison (go - to CHAIR)

MADISON

Dr. Sims! Did John Beck marry Amanda Jones of his own free will?

DR. SIMS

No.

MADISON

No further questions.

(SIMS leaves the witness stand.)

COLLINGS

The next witness for the Defense is Miss Hilda Redd.

MADISON

I object! Miss Redd has already been subjected to gross indignities, and.....

COLLINGS

And I have taken the liberty of having her served with a subpoena; since I haven't done with subjecting her to gross indignities.

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection over-ruled. Strike out that remark by Mr. Collings. Witness will take the oath.

(CLERK calls HILDA REDD to the stand. When she doesn't rise, GUARD calls her. She Xs reluctantly, and takes oath)

~~COLLINGS~~

~~It should be obvious to the Court that this is a hostile witness.~~

~~JUDGE ARCHER~~

~~Witness will please answer questions directly.~~

COLLINGS

Miss Redd, when you were a witness for the State you testified you were well acquainted with the Beck house and household, didn't you?

HILDA REDD

Yes.

COLLINGS

During your period of employment with Dr. Beck you had unusual freedom within the house?

HILDA REDD

I don't know what you mean by that.

COLLINGS

You could come and go in Dr. Beck's house; when and how you pleased?

HILDA REDD

Dr. Beck's house? I thought the house belonged to his late wife and Miss Jones.

COLLINGS

Just a minute, Miss Redd. Didn't you testify yesterday in words similar to these: "I was well acquainted with his home life -- since he maintains his office at his home"?

HILDA REDD

(Deliberate; malicious)

Yes; but his home was not his house.

COLLINGS

(Exasperated)

Miss Redd! Could you come and go as you pleased in the house where Dr. Beck had his office, and where he lived?

HILDA REDD

I was mostly concerned with affairs in the office.

COLLINGS

(Shouting)

That wasn't the question!. And on yesterday you seemed to be concerned with everything but the office.

HILDA REDD

You don't have to shout that way! Alright; I could go wherever I wanted to. But I was careful not to take undue liberties. I never intruded.

COLLINGS

And how did you get into the house?

HILDA REDD

By the door, of course.

COLLINGS

A person like you wouldn't have wings. So you couldn't have flown in through the second story window. So even stupid me suspected that you went in by the door. (Pause) By what door?

MADISON

(Up)

Don't answer that question. If the Court please, I don't see.....

COLLINGS

If the Court please! I wish to show that Hilda Redd herself, or someone acting in collusion could have entered Dr. Beck's surgery on the day Amanda Beck was killed!

MADISON

(Xing L)

But your Honor, Miss Redd has testified that she was in Chicago on the day Mrs. Beck was murdered!

COLLINGS

May I point out to the Court that we merely have the witness' word for that.

MADISON

Mr. Collings is being silly! It's more than obvious that Miss Redd was in.....

COLLINGS

May I proceed with the witness, your Honor?

JUDGE ARCHER

Objection over-ruled! ~~MA. sit~~ Go on with the witness, Mr. Collings.

COLLINGS

Miss Redd, was it customary for someone in the Beck house to admit you by the door?

HILDA REDD

Frequently someone in the house opened the door for me.

COLLINGS

I see. Now, while you were a nurse, working for Dr. Beck mind you, the doctor himself always opened the door for you.....

HILDA REDD

I didn't say that!

COLLINGS

Well....if Dr. Beck or Amanda Beck or Carrie Jones didn't open the door for you, how else could you get into the house?

HILDA REDD

I had a key, of course.

COLLINGS

Ah! You had a key! Just one key?

HILDA REDD

No, I had two keys. But I don't see.....

COLLINGS

Well, then just close your eyes. And just answer the questions. You had two keys? Both of them to the front door?

HILDA REDD

I told you I was in Chicago when Mrs. Beck was.....

COLLINGS

But then both keys you had opened the front.....

HILDA REDD

I didn't say that!

COLLINGS

Then you could have entered the Beck house by a door other than the front door?



HILDA REDD

Yes.

COLLINGS

What door was that?

HILDA REDD

A door to the surgery.

COLLINGS

I see. And when Dr. Beck discharged you, Miss Redd, you returned those two keys to him?

HILDA REDD

No, I.....

COLLINGS

Then you still have those keys?

HILDA REDD

No: I don't have them.

COLLINGS

Then where are they?

HILDA REDD

I don't know: I lost them.

COLLINGS

Did you tell Dr. Beck that you lost those keys?

HILDA REDD

No.

COLLINGS

Did you tell anyone -- anyone at all -- that you lost those keys?

HILDA REDD

No.

COLLINGS

But you want us to believe you lost those keys, don't you?

HILDA REDD

I don't care what you believe....

(Simultaneously)

(Up)

MADISON

Objection!

COLLINGS

I withdraw the question. (MA. sit) Now, Miss Redd, until recently you maintained an apartment on St. Nicholas Avenue, isn't that a fact?

38  
HILDA REDD

Yes.

COLLINGS

And Mr. Fields has often been a visitor to your apartment -- isn't that a.....

MADISON

(Up)

Objection! Don't answer that question!

COLLINGS

Alright , I'll withdraw the question. Your witness, Mr. Madison.  
(Xs to table=sits)

MADISON

(Xs to)

Miss Redd, did you help Dr. Beck on the Doolittle case?

HILDA REDD

Yes.

MADISON

And you heard him express his aversion to black Negroes?

HILDA REDD

Yes.

MADISON

Was Mrs. Beck a black woman, Miss Redd?

HILDA REDD

Why, yes.

MADISON

Did you ever hear Dr. Beck say he wanted to be rid of Mrs. Beck?

COLLINGS

(Up) Objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

Over-ruled.

COLLINGS

But, your Honor, that's a misleading question!

JUDGE ARCHER

Question is permissible. Witness will answer.

HILDA REDD

(Maliciously, Yes. I heard John Beck say he wanted to get  
rid of Amanda Beck!

MADISON

That's all, Miss Redd. REDD leaves stand-resumes seat ✓

COLLINGS

The Skatkin next witness for the Defense is Mrs. Ruth Ellen.

(An elderly mulatto woman, very well dressed, leaves a spectator's chair and crosses toward witness chair. As she passes Dr. Beck, she smiles at him pleasantly.)

(The CLERK gives RUTH ELLEN the oath.)

COLLINGS

Is your husband alive, Mrs. Ellen?

RUTH ELLEN

No. He died seven years ago.

COLLINGS

Were you well off when your husband died?

RUTH ELLEN

I had a little money. But it was soon gone.

COLLINGS

After your money was gone, how did you earn your living?

RUTH ELLEN

I got a job in a dress factory. But it was all I could do, working ten hours a day, to make nine dollars a week.

COLLINGS

How old were you when you began working in the dress factory?

RUTH ELLEN

I was sixty four. And I had no relatives or friends.

COLLINGS

How long did you work in the dress factory?

RUTH ELLEN

A little less than two years.

COLLINGS

Why did you stop working there?

RUTH ELLEN

One day, I was crossing Leox Avenue near 125th Street. I was run over by an automobile which sped away, and left me lying in the street.

COLLINGS

And then what happened?

RUTH ELLEN

There was a City Hospital a block away. I was taken there.



RUTH ELLEN

The little 'ol received treatment first. Then the internes began to examine the man who was shot. They had led him roughly. The he ~~came~~ <sup>scream</sup> out in pain, they cursed him.

COLLINGS

were those internes colored or white?

RUTH ELLEN

One was colored, the other was white. Both were guilty of brutal conduct.

COLLINGS

So colored people and white people can be equally brutal--if not equal in other spheres!...Go on Mrs. Ellen.

RUTH ELLEN

In one corner of the room, I could see a colored nurse and a white interne. They were very much interested in one another. They were talking about drinking gin together the previous night in a Harlem cabaret. I remember that very well. They had time for nothing but themselves and their talk. Then Dr. Beck came in. I had never seen him before.

(She smiles)

He delivered quite a lecture on hospital discipline. And he didn't choose nice words either! Then he came over to me and began to take care of my injuries.

COLLINGS

And After he had done so, he went away I suppose.

RUTH ELLEN

Yes. But he came back to the hospital to see me next day. He was not on the hospital staff. But he insisted upon taking care of me himself. A few days later he had me moved to a private hospital. I remained in that private hospital for a year. I received medical attention. A plastic surgeon fixed my head and face.

(She laughs)

I am far better looking now, now than ever before.

COLLINGS

Who paid for this, Mrs. Ellen?

RUTH ELLEN

Dr. Beck. After I was discharged from the hospital, he rented an apartment for me. I've lived there ever since.

COLLINGS

(To Jury.)

and this is the man the District Attorney and his assistant call a beast, a man without principal. This is the man he brands a killer! Now you talk to this lady, R. Harrison.

(COLLINGS crosses UP LEFT to CLERK.)

(RALPH JUDD enters RIGHT. A white man in his late twenties, he takes a seat at the Reporters' table.)

(ELENORE begins to droop in her chair. DR. BECK shows signs of alarm, because of her condition.)

MADISON

(Up at his table.)

I see you are a very lovely young lady, Mrs. Ellen. I can understand why Dr. Beck would be fond of you. Your appearance quite suits my extraordinary taste. Even in the matter of color. From here, I should say your skin is a golden brown. Dr. Beck would like that!

RALPH JUDD

(Trying to attract Collings' attention in a loud whisper.)

Mr. Collings! Mr. Collings!

(COLLINGS glances at JUDD, but looks away.)

(ELENORE collapses, her head drooping on the table before her. DR. BECK half rises from his chair to look at her, while he feels her pulse.)

MADISON

(Crossing toward witness stand during the action above.)

And isn't it true, Mrs. Ellen, that Dr. Beck has often said to you: "You remind me of my mother?"

(COURT ATTENDANT enters from JUDGE'S Chambers and hands CLERK and envelope.)

RUTH ELLEN

He does say that. Only it was my grandmother I remind him of.

MADISON

(Sarcastically.)

And most criminals have a sincere affection for their mothers or their prototypes! No more questions, Mrs. Ellen.

CLERK

Your honor. The marriage license is here.

(Hands envelope to Judge.)

(RUTH ELLEN leaves stand and resumes spectator's chair, looking sympathetically at ELENORE as she passes her.)

~~THE END~~

JUDGE ARCHER

(Glancing at license, after having opened the envelope.)

Mr. Collings, I have the marriage license here. Everything seems to be in order. So, is it is agreeable to you and your client, I'll perform the ceremony at the end of today's session.

DR. BECK

(Having listened intently and anxiously to Judge Archer.)

If your honor please....

COLLINGS

(Interrupting.)

What is it, John?

(Crosses to Dr. Beck to whom he whispers for a second. He turns to Judge Archer.)

If the Court please, Dr. Beck has informed me that he is extremely concerned about Miss Hopkins' health. Today's session has been very trying for her, and he fears serious consequences if she's not allowed to go home as quickly as possible. Therefore, may we request you to perform the marriage ceremony now, rather than at the close of this session?

MADISON

I object! Staging this wedding is a deliberately concocted scheme to create sympathy for a vicious killer!

COLLINGS

(Angry.)

I move for mistrial! Mr. Madison again is branding my client....

JUDGE ARCHER

(Interrupting)

Enough of this!

(Glancing down at stenographer.)

Strike out Mr. Madison's remarks.

MADISON

(Crossing to bench.)

I object to any marriage taking place in this courtroom. And I demand a ruling on my objection!

JUDGE ARCHER

It's over-ruled!

COLLINGS

your Honor! I have a motion before the Court.

MADISON

(Simultaneously with Collings.)

I take exception to the Court's ruling!

JUDGE ARCHER

(Annoyed with Madison.)

Mr. Madison, I've taken a great deal of the Court's time with your tactics. The Court has already issued its ruling on this whole issue earlier today when Mr. Collings requested the marriage license

JUDGE ARCHER (cont'd)  
for his client. Mr. Collings, your motion for a mistrial is re-  
nied.

RALPH JUDD  
(Leans over rail and tries to attract Col-  
lings' attention.)  
Mr. Collings! Mr. Collings!

MADISON  
(After having looked at Elenore who still  
is in a state of collapse.)  
I'll consent to the marriage.  
(Crosses to bench.)  
If your Honor will have the courtroom cleared.

JUDGE ARCHER  
Very well.  
(To the Clerk.)  
Have the courtroom cleared.

RALPH JUDD  
(Shouting to Collings above noise coming  
from the spectators.)  
Mr. Collings. Can I see you for a minute?

CLERK and ATTENDANTS  
Clear the Court! Clear the Court!

RALPH JUDD  
Mr. Collings. I've some photos that'll interest you!

JUDGE ARCHER  
(Noticing Judd.)  
Will the Clerk clear the Court of the Press too!

(Judd goes to rail where J. is. He  
jumps over the rail and hands COLLINGS sev-  
eral photos and newspaper clippings. COL-  
LINGS looks at them quickly as JUDD whis-  
pers in his ear.)

CLERK  
(To Judd.)  
All right! Outside! Or I'll have to throw you out!

JUDD  
See what I mean, Mr. Collings?

COLLINGS  
Yes. But I'll need time to check it up. I'm going to ask for....  
(Again he looks at photos and clippings.)

JUDD  
(As the Clerk gives him the bench's key.)  
All right! All right! Take it easy!

(JUDD is among the last of the spectators,  
witnesses and reporters to leave room)



COLLINGS

Your honor!

(Crossing excitedly to bench.)

I hope that Court be adjourned until next Monday! New evidence appears which changes the whole complexion of this case!

JUDGE ARCHER

Just what is the nature of this new evidence, Mr. Collings?

COLLINGS

This evidence will prove my client not guilty. But I shall need time to thoroughly investigate the sources of the information I've just received.

MADISON

This sort of thing would be all stiff to the Court. These eleventh hour theatricals generally never hold water!

JUDGE ARCHER

I'm inclined to agree with Mr. Madison.

COLLINGS

Mr. Beck is being tried for murder. He lawfully deserves every opportunity to defend himself.

MADISON

Mr. Collings has had ample time to prepare his case, your Honor! And he has already entered into the matter!

JUDGE ARCHER

Mr. Collings, I'm inclined to deny your request for an adjournment for such a length of time. You and your client have already taken great liberties with the Court's time today. Wouldn't a few hours be sufficient?

MADISON

Why don't you show us this new evidence you have?

COLLINGS

That wouldn't be in the interest of my client!

JUDGE ARCHER

I agree to that point.

(COLLINGS and MADISON cross to the corner of the bench and hold a whispered conversation with JUDGE ARCHER.)

JUDGE ARCHER

Mr. District Attorney, if you are willing, I'll adjourn trial until next Monday morning. But Mr. Collings, if the Court at that time discovers that this request of yours is a cheap hoax, you will be held in contempt, and fined the cost of the Court during the period of adjournment.

MADISON

I think that fair enough. I agree to the adjournment.

JUDGE ARCHER

Very well. Court is adjourned until next Monday at ten o'clock.

COLLINGS

Thank you both.

(Crosses to his table.)

(Meanwhile DR. BECK has been busy with  
~~MISS~~ ~~HOPE~~ at the table.)

DR. BECK

Miss. Hopkins has recovered somewhat now. Would your honor perform the ceremony?

JUDGE ARCHER

(Rising from chair.)

Very well.

(Leaving bench.)

And now we'll get this unusual couple married.

CURTAIN FALLS

ACT THREE

TIME: The following Monday at ten o'clock.

SCENE: The same as in Act One and Act Two.

ALL FIVE: Court is not yet in session. There is considerable noise coming from spectators, reporters and witnesses. The stenographer is sitting at his table reading a wide open newspaper. HILDA REDD and FIELDS stand CLERK talking to MADISON. MADISON enters R. HILL escorted by MADISON; they cross to the defense table and MADISON sits in chair LEFT of table.

FIELDS

(Leering)  
The sepia wonder of the New York bar!  
(He prods MADISON in the side and nods at Collings.)

COLLINGS

(Looking through the papers on his table.)  
Good morning, Mr. Fields.

FIELDS

(Grinning at Elenore.)  
Well! The bride! And very much recovered I see!

MADISON

Fancy Miss. Hopkins--pariah! I mean Mrs. Beck--not being in a hospital!

FIELDS

(Chuckling.)  
Ah! But James Collings has vast powers of revelation!

(CLERK approaches HILDA REDD and asks her to go outside of rail. Reluctantly, she walks through gate and takes a spectator's chair.)

MADISON

Whatever his powers!--he's better display them today!

FIELDS

Something tells me he's going to have to pay court costs from last Wednesday until today! Or else!

## COLLINGS

(Smiles as he places some papers on his table.)  
 I should have to let that--I have to manage it--  
 it having to pass to that the other of you--I mean.

## MADISON

Tell me, I don't really have to pay, you know? Judge Archer will arrange a bit of vacation for you--in one of our public resorts!

## FIELDS

Oh, in such an event, you can count on me for hot soup!

## MADISON

(~~Stands up from his chair and pre-~~  
 tending to be greatly concerned.)

Collings, did you know that the Jury consumed two hundred dollars worth of food during the last few days!

## COLLINGS

No!

(Sighs)

Oh well! There's no accounting for appetites!

## FIELDS

(Just as Judge Archer appears at door  
 Up-Stage Left.)

They had chicken and champagne! But you may have to make it on bread and water to pay for their tastes. And I hear one or two ordered squab!--for breakfast yesterday morning.

## ELENORE HOPKINS

(Looking at Collings and being  
 very serious.)

Mr. Collings!--you won't really have to pay for all that, will you?

(Madison and Fields begin to laugh.)

## COURT CLERK

(In a sing-song voice.)

Hear ye, hear ye. All ye who have business draw near, give attention, and ye shall be heard.

(Everybody rises. Judge Archer, now upon the bench, sits down and nods at the Clerk.)

Be seated. Court is now in session. Judge Archer presiding.

(He knocks on his desk with gavel.)

(Fields and Madison go to their table  
 Collings sits down beside Elenore.)

JUDGE ARCHER

(Motion to Guard.)

Bring in the prisoner.

(There is some low conversation in room when the Guard leaves courtroom by door JOHN STAGE LEFT. ELENORE talks to COLLINGS.)

(DR. BECK escorted by GUARD enters by door : COLLINGS rises, crosses to meet BECK. BECK shakes COLLINGS' hand; then quickly crosses to ELENORE and kisses her.

DR. BECK

I didn't think you'd be able to come today, Elenore'

ELENORE

(Joyly.) (She rises.)

I feel quite all right this morning, John. and you look swell'

(COLLINGS motions to BECK and ELENORE to be seated. All three sit down at Defense table.)

JUDGE ARCHER

If Mr. Collings is ready' He's already had a great deal of time.

COLLINGS

Quite ready, your Honor.

(He rises and crosses to bench.)

I ask permission to restate my case to the Court and the Jury.

JUDGE ARCHER

Permission granted.

COLLINGS

(Bows to Judge.)

and, it please the Court. And gentlemen of the Jury. I shall restate my case simply and briefly.

(He glances toward the spectators and witnesses.)

But before I do--because of the extraordinary nature of the evidence I'm about to present--I ask that the doors be closed and a guard stationed there until the end of the session.

JUDGE ARCHER

(To Guard.)

Have the doors locked. Let no one enter or leave the room until the close of the session.

(GUARD goes to DR. BECK who gives him keys.

GUARD then crosses RIGHT through gate and walks off, indicating that he has locked doors.)



COLLINGS

Now, Mr. Judd. Before we go into your activities at Newark Airport on July 1st., suppose you tell us how you happened to become interested in this case?

RALPH JUDD

I already started to tell you, but you cut me off.

COLLINGS

I promise to let you tell us this time.... over

RALPH JUDD

Well it's like this. Of course this is a colored man's case. All the stuff as that. But it's got a new angle. See?

COLLINGS now rises and says,

So it won't make no difference who's mixed up in a case - black people, white people, or anybody - as you start talking about the first - child, or children that it's a fully legal sterilization, which is bound to be the front page. That means pictures. And I'm in that business. So in last Tuesday night's papers there was the pictures of all the people connected with this case.

COLLINGS

And did you see something in those pictures to arouse your interest?

RALPH JUDD

Yeah, but not just in the pictures by the selves. You see a couple of the tapers goes into the back-grounds of the witnesses and people like that. But there's this one picture--I wanna start talking about.

COLLINGS

Well tell us about that picture.

RALPH JUDD

This was a picture of a person supposed to be miles away from the scene of William Peck's run-out.

COLLINGS

And was that person so far away?

RALPH JUDD

Now, that person was at the airport on July 1st.

COLLINGS

Can you prove your statement?

RALPH JUDD

Sure!

COLLINGS

How?

RALPH JUDD

We was interviewin' people leavin' planes that day. As folks would leave the plane I would snap their pictures. Some of 'em would step up to the microphone an' talk to the radio audience; and some wouldn't. Well - from one of the planes out steps a colored person. The only one all that morning. I snapped the picture. But the person wouldn't talk to nobody -- just rushed off in a taxi. Even though they ain't published, I hold on to all my prints, see?

COLLINGS

(Handing print to JUDD)

Is this the picture you took *at the Newark Airport*?

RALPH JUDD

Yeah. That's the picture alright. My mark's down in the corner.

(Returns photo to CO)

COLLINGS

(Handing clipping to JUDD)

And is this newphoto you clipped from Tuesday's paper a picture of the same person you snapped at Newark Airport on July 1st?

RALPH JUDD

Yeah. The two picture are of the same person.

(Returns clipping to CO)

COLLINGS

And you dispute this person's statement to the police and the District Attorney to being miles away from New York on the day Amanda Beck was murdered? You place this person at Newark Airport?

RALPH JUDD

That person was at Newark Airport on July 1st. I seen that person with my own eyes. And I snapped a picture of that person with my own camera. And you got the picture.

COLLINGS

Thank you, Mr. Judd. Your witness, Mr. Madison.

MADISON

(Xing to stand)

You ~~saw~~ *envelope* Mr. Collings and ~~later~~ *later*, Mr. Judd?

RALPH JUDD

Yes.

MADISON

Why?



RALPH JUDD

Because I ain't got the stomach to see an innocent guy sit in the hot chair.

MADISON

And aren't you always writing letters to newspapers, and people in the limelight, Mr. Judd?

COLLINGS

Don't answer that question. Objection.

MADISON

(To JU.)

Your Honor. I contend that this witness is a crank. There are thousands like him. They get hysterical and want to write letters and appear as witnesses whenever a court case becomes the least bit sensational.

COLLINGS

Your Honor. Ralph Judd has evidence to support his statements.

MADISON

Then why don't you offer those photographs in evidence?

COLLINGS

I'm conducting this defense. Not you, Mr. Madison.

JUDGE ARCHER

No more of that -- both of you. Mr. Collings objection sustained.

MADISON

No more questions.

COLLINGS

Will the attendant call Herman Philips to the stand.

CLERK

Herman Philips to the stand. Herman Philips to the stand.

RALPH JUDD

What about me?

COLLINGS

You may go now. (JUDD leaves stand)

(PHILLIPS, dressed in an Air Pilot's uniform crosses to stand and is sworn in.)

Philips, what

COLLINGS

Now, Mr. Phillips, what is your business?

HERMAN PHILIPS

I'm an aviator. I'm a co-pilot on the Cross-Service Air Lines.

COLLINGS

And just what are your duties?

HERMAN PHILIPS

I act as relief pilot and controls of our planes. I check passengers at the beginning of a flight and at the end of a flight.

COLLINGS

Just how do you check ~~xxxx~~ passengers?

HERMAN PHILIPS

The passengers on our line, as on most air-lines, reserve their seats on our planes in advance. They appear at the air-ports. The pilots are given a list of the names of the people having made reservations for a flight. I stand by the door of the plane to check their names as they enter. When they leave the plane I do the same thing.

COLLINGS

(Showing him Judd's print.)

Have you ever seen this person before?

HERMAN PHILIPS

Yes. I know that person as T. Wright who made a flight on a plane with me to Newark Air-Port. And--

COLLINGS

(Interrupting quickly.)

What time did your plane land at Newark Air Port on this particular flight?

HERMAN PHILIPS

T. Wright made flights on my plane on July 1st. We landed at Newark Air Port at 12.20. Twenty minutes past noon.

COLLINGS

(Showing him newspaper picture.)

Is this a picture of T. Wright?

HERMAN PHILIPS

Yes. ~~But there is another person's name under that picture. That~~ That's the person I know as T. Wright.

COLLINGS

I see. And what time did you leave Newark Air Port, after having arrived at 12.20, ~~twenty minutes past noon?~~

HERMAN PHILIPS

We left Newark on our return flight at 3.10.

COLLINGS

Was T. Wright with you on your return trip?

HERMAN PHILIPS

Yes.

COLLINGS

o you happen to know when T. Wright made reservations for this round trip?

HERMAN PHILIPS

(Takes some papers out of his  
inside pocket.)

These are the Company's records. T. Wright made reservations for that round trip flight on June 10th--  
three full weeks in advance.

(Collings takes paper.)

COLLINGS

How were weather conditions on that day?

HERMAN PHILIPS

Perfect.

COLLINGS

No more questions, Mr. Philips. Your witness, Mr. Madison.

MADISON

You identified two pictures as representing a person known to you as T. Wright who made a return-trip plane flight with you on July 1st. Could you produce records to bear out the statements you have just made? Something in black and white?

HERMAN PHILIPS

Yes. The Company's records of that day's flights. The Company has a full record of every flight made that day by any of its planes, and by all its planes. The records include names of all passengers, pilots, hostesses, plane-licenses and--

MADISON

(Interrupting.)

Allright! No further questions!

(Philips smiles and leaves stand,  
walking Right to Spectator's seat.)

COLLINGS

(Looking off Right to doors.)

Will the next call the next witness, Miss Mary Hudson?

(Mary Hudson walks through doors just as he calls her name. She proceeds Left to Court Clerk's desk. She is a very pretty blond, dressed as an air-line hostess.)

COURT CLERK

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

MARY HUDSON

I do.

ACT THREE

(She sits in witness-chair and smiles.)

COLLINGS

You are an air-hostess, are you not, Miss Hudson?

MARY HUDSON

Yes. I'm an air-hostess.

COLLINGS

Did you make a round-trip flight with co-pilot Philips on July 1st? trip which began at 11 o'clock that morning and ended at 4.30 that afternoon?

MARY HUDSON

I did.

COLLINGS

(Showing her both pictures.)

Was this person one of your passengers on that flight?

MARY HUDSON

Yes. That's T. Wright.

COLLINGS

Is this T. Wright in both pictures?

MARY HUDSON

Well the person in both pictures is the person I know as T. Wright.

COLLINGS

(Withdrawing pictures.)

I see. Are air-hostesses given a passenger list before flights?

MARY HUDSON

Yes.

COLLINGS

And once you have seen a person and reconciled that person as a passenger on a flight--do you have to consult our list before you can call that person's name?

MARY HUDSON

A passenger is assigned a seat in my plane. I manage to remember that person as long as the flight lasts. When I see the person again I manage to remember the person's name in many instances.

COLLINGS

How do you happen to be able to recall, identify T. Wright as a person who once made a flight on your plane?

MARY HUDSON

(A little embarrassed.)

MARY HUDSON

T. Wright is a colored person. Her colored people-- even travel in planes. At least on the planes in which I work.

COLLINGS

I see. Have your passenger lists for flights 36 and 66 for July 1st?

MARY HUDSON

Yes. Right here.

(She leans over and points at papers.)

(Collings and Madison both look.)

That check beside the name means that T. Wright actually made the flights.

COLLINGS

That's all.

MADISON

No questions.

(Her smile a bit nervous steps down from chair. Madison glances at her constantly while talking her over. She looks right at Senator's bench. She sits with Phillips.)

COLLINGS

Will the Attendant at the door call George B. Shaw who is my next witness!

MADISON

(Suddenly turning to Judge Archer.)

We record! I demand that Mr. Collings offer these pictures of this evidence or let me see a look at them--because I want to know who T. Wright is!

JUDGE ARCHER

I'd like to know who T. Wright is myself. But I can't demand that Mr. Collings show me his pictures--for the very simple reason that by so doing I might defeat the aims of justice.

(George B. Shaw comes through doors at Right and walks Left to stand where he stands at Clerk's desk.)

COLLINGS

(Holds pictures toward Madison.)

Here. Take a quick peep!

(As Madison looks, Collings snatches picture away.)

FIELDS

(Turns toward Mr. Collings.)

Object!...Mr. Collings is trying to play games with the District Attorney!

MADISON

And he's caught!

COLLINGS

(Grinning at Fields.)

And won't the bad lawyers let Mr. Fields play?....  
Don't worry you'll have your chance.

SHAW

What about me?

COLLINGS

Just as soon as you take our oath we'll let you play,  
too! *Oh! Sit. It's time.*

JUDGE ARCHER

Enough of this Mr. Collings.

(Trying to keep from grinning.)

And you really musn't  
play now-you-see-it; now-you-don't with Mr. Marston and  
Mr. Fields... They're too grown up for that race. The  
Clerk will give George B. Shaw the oath now.

COURT CLERK

You solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole  
truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

SHAW

Yeah!

(Sits in witness-chair.)

(Shaw is a tall, thin individual dressed  
as a taxi-cab driver.)

COLLINGS

What do you do <sup>for</sup> you a living, Mr. Shaw?

SHAW

Tell I ain't no sissy like his old-long earl here  
that's copped me name. I don't write no books like  
him and--

JUDGE ARCHER

Will the witness answer the question please!

SHAW

O. K. I just don't want nobody to mistake me for  
this other George Shaw that goes around being sarcastic  
with people. No? I'm a taxi-cab driver. and I got me  
own way of putting wise guys in their places.

(Adding quickly.)

Not mean-

ing you--your honor!

JUDGE ARCHER

That makes the Court very proud, Mr. Shaw...  
Proceed, Mr. Collings.

COLLINGS

So you're a cab driver?

SHAW

That's what I said.

COLLINGS

And where is your cab-stand?

SHAW

It's at Newark Air Port. I works day times.

COLLINGS

Can you remember what happened during the day of July 1st?

SHAW

(Giving Collings a wave of the hand.)

Kin I remember that day! Sure!

COLLINGS

Now do you happen to be able to remember that day so well?

SHAW

Well it's like this. Me and me brother--he's a P.S. bus deliver over in Newark--has got the same sister-in-law. Kin an he got a couple of sisters. I mean he married one, and I kin of his self to the other skirt. Tell me the old lady is a regular old cut. See? And me and she is gettin' all fed up with her. Can't move without her cutting in. So this day, July 1st, me brother comes out to me cab-stand at the airport and says he let th' old she-cow have one on the button. He's gotta leave town 'cause th' old lady is got the cops right behind him. Tell me sooner that he starts waving his tongue at me than the cops sneak up and grab him. The old lady is with the cops too--see? And she starts in reeking to the cops a out how I got the habit of busting her on the button too. But I ain't done no such thing, see? The old she-coward is just lying. So it takes me about twenty minutes to convince these cops. But when I gets through I find out I've done a good job. Because the cops got other--in-law too so they walk off and I have me me brother. And since that day me and him ain't been able to go home.

COLLINGS

You haven't been to your home since July 1st?

SHAW

It ain't safe there. Th' old lady says she'll bust me and my brothers' head if we come home. She don't do nothing now--according to me old neighbors--at cart around a flat iron waiting on us to come by.

COLLINGS

And you remember everything that happened on July 1st?

SHAW

Oh sure! Everything.

COLLINGS

(Shows him both pictures ~~and identification papers~~)  
Have you seen this person before?

SHAW

Yeah. That's the fare I carted over to Harlem and back before me brother come to me with his ~~ride~~ *story*.

COLLINGS

(Withdrawing pictures.)

What time was it when you picked up this person?

SHAW

That fare come in on the 12.20 plane. I picked up this person just after the plane landed.

COLLINGS

Did this fare of yours ask you any questions?

SHAW

Yeah. This person asked me could I make 139th Street in Harlemand back to the air-port in time for the 3.10 plane? So I said yes.

COLLINGS

Do you remember where, on 139th Street, you took your fare?

SHAW

Yeah. I don't remember the number. But a doctor's name was on the door. I could see the sign from me place in the cab. It was--I mean the name--Dr. Beck.

(FIELDS rises, crosses to talk to HILDA REDD)

COLLINGS

Now you say you let your fare out of your cab at Dr. Beck's house. What did your fare do then?

SHAW

Went up to the door and opened it quick with a key. Then come out again in ten minutes. The person wasn't in the house no more than fifteen minutes.

COLLINGS

How much were you paid for transporting this person from Newark Air-port to 139th Street in Harlem?

(2) 15 7/16 5/16 1/16

I got a twenty dollar bill and a five dollar bill. This Fare was allright about money! We made the deal for twenty bucks before we started out. I agreed to take me Fare over and back for that--including what-ever wait that might happen on 139th street.

COLLINGS

You brought the same person back to the Air-Port?



SHAW

Yeah; and in plenty of time for the three-ten plane.

(MADISON ~~As~~ L. to stand)

COLLINGS

Take another look. These pictures are of the same person. Is this person the same one you took to Harlem -- to Dr. John Beck's house -- on July 1st?

SHAW

That's the fare I carted to Dr. Beck's house from Newark Air-Port on July 1st.

COLLINGS

And now, if the Court please, I should like to place these photographs in evidence as conclusive proof of John Beck's innocence; and as direct proof that another person committed this murder. But before I do so, I ask permission to explain the diabolical plot these pictures prove.

JUDGE ARCHER

Permission granted.

COLLINGS

Thank you, your Honor. This morning four disinterested witnesses identified the person in these pictures as T. Wright. But that name is an alias. T. Wright is actually a witness in this trial. The witness was in another city the day the murder was committed; but we now know that the witness was also in New York City on that fatal Wednesday. The murderer, alias T. Wright, knew that Amanda would be in the house alone, cleaning the surgery; had easy access to the house; knew the location of the surgery; where the instruments were kept; and had calculated to the minute. For within the two hours and fifty minutes between planes, T. Wright took a taxi to Dr. Beck's house, murdered Amanda Beck, and caught the plane on its return flight at 3:10.....

MADISON

But what possible motivation can you establish, Mr. Collings?

*Envy and Jealousy.* COLLINGS

The murderer was envious of Amanda Beck's brains; jealous of the hold Amanda had on John Beck as his legal wife; and therefore sought to use Amanda as the instrument to hang John Beck.

MADISON

But if the person was jealous.....

**W A R N**

**C U R T A I N**

COLLINGS

The murderer hated Amanda, but feared John Beck because of his uncompromising intellectual integrity and his advanced sociological theories.....

JUDGE ARCHER

Mr. Collings, will you please ~~place these pictures in evidence~~ *place these photographs in evidence?*

COLLINGS

(Turns to Shaw.)

Is the person in these pictures in this courtroom.

SHAW

Yeah.

COLLINGS

Will you now stand up and point out that person?

(SHAW stands up. As he does, BECK and ELENORE rise and face Left, then they turn Right.)

SHAW

(Pointing out Carrie Jones.)

There's the person!

(CARRIE jumps up and tries to leave court. Her exit is blocked by an attendant. The spectators and witnesses have risen and have crowded UP Right.)

CARRIE JONES

Yes, I did it! I did it! I'll confess!

(To Guard who holds her.)

Let me confess!

JUDGE ARCHER

Let the witness through.

CARRIE JONES

(As she crosses to bench.)

I had to do it! I had to do it!

ELENORE HOPKINS

Why would you do such a thing, Carrie?

CARRIE JONES

(Turns, crosses back to Beck.)

I wanted him as much as you and Amanda did.

(To Beck.)

John....a black woman kin love too! A black woman kin love too!

DR. BECK

(Compassionately.)

Carrie!

CARRIE JONES

(Looking up and shaking her fists upward.)

Goddamn you God! Goddamn you for making me so black!

(CURTAIN FALLS)

COLLINGS

(Turns to Shaw.)

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SHAW

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